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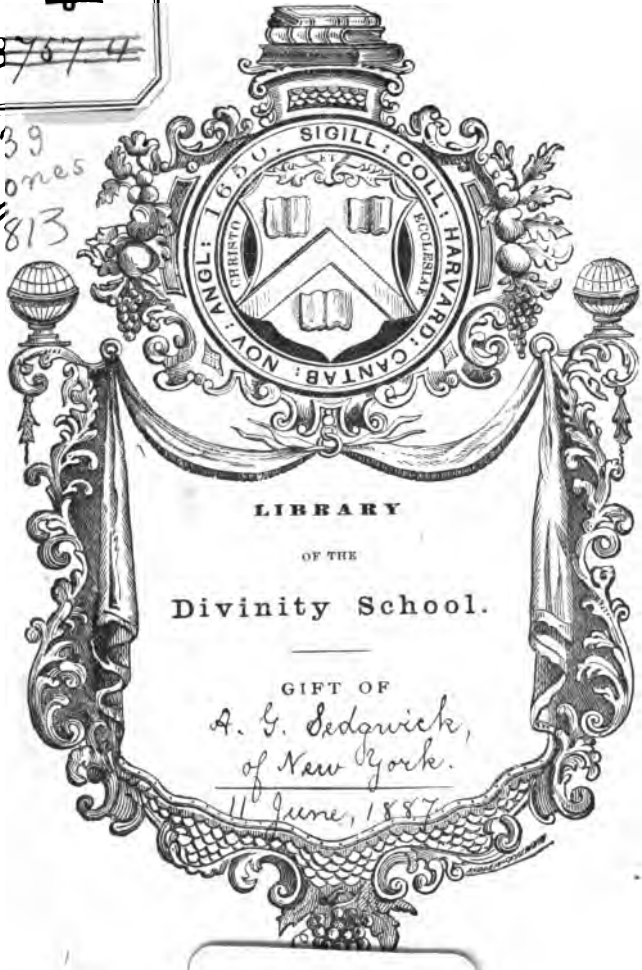

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THE

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DOCTRINE OF A TRINITY,

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WITH A FEW REFLECTIONS,

OCCASIONALLY INTERSPERSED, UPON SOME OF THE ARIAN WRITERS,

PARTICULARLY DR. S. CLARKE:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A LETTER TO THE COMMON PEOPLE,

IN ANSWER TO SOME POPULAR ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE TRINITY.

BY THE LATE

WILLIAM JONES, M. A. F. R. S.

RECTOR OF PASTON, IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, AND MINISTER OF NAYLAND, IN SUFFOLK.

Thou shalt answer for me, O Lord my God. Psalm xxxviii. 15.
Not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; *comparing spiritual things with spiritual.* 1 Cor. ii. 13.

THE FIRST AMERICAN,

FROM THE SEVENTH LONDON EDITION.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY WHITING AND WATSON, 96 BROADWAY.

Pelsue & Gould, Print. 9 Wall-street.

1813.

This TRACT is in the list of books dispersed by "*The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge,*" as a work well calculated to disseminate the knowledge of evangelical truth, at a time, when the enemies of our holy faith are busy in their endeavors to undermine it.

TO THE REVEREND AND WORTHY

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,

THE HEADS OF HOUSES,

AND OTHER MEMBERS OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

THE FOLLOWING DEFENCE

OF THE

DOCTRINE OF THE EVER BLESSED TRINITY,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

A

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PREFACE

TO THE

THIRD EDITION.

MY bookseller having solicited me to republish this little treatise, I have corrected the typographical errors of the last edition, and enlarged some passages of the work itself.

The attempt of a late bishop of Clogher to propagate Arianism in the church of Ireland, induced me to keep the doctrine of the trinity in my thoughts for some years; and I had a particular attention to it, as often as the scriptures either of the Old or New Testament, were before me. This little book was the fruit of my study; of which I have seen some good effects already, and ought not to despair of seeing more before I die.

Many other observations have occurred to me since the first publication, which I should willingly have added. But some readers might have been discouraged, if I had presented them with a book of too large a size: and the merits of the cause lie in a small compass.

The republication of this work, though merely accidental, is not unseasonable at this time, when we are taught from the press,* (and the author seems to be very much in earnest) that the only sure way of reducing Christianity to its primitive purity, is to abolish all creeds and articles. But the great rock of offence, with this writer, is the trinity; to get rid of which, he would at once dissolve our whole ecclesiastical constitution and form of worship.

This wild project furnishes a melancholy confirmation of the censure passed on us by some learned Pro-

* In a new work, entitled *The Confessional.*

testants abroad; who have reflected upon England as a country productive of literary monsters;* where some old heresy is frequently rising up, as old comets have been supposed to do, with new and portentous appearances. And the reader whose sight can penetrate through the vehement accusations of Popery, bigotry, persecution, imposition, and other fiery vapours with which this author hath surrounded his performance, will discover little, if any thing, more than Arianism at the centre.

The scripture is the only rule that can enable us to judge, whether that or the Catholic doctrine of the trinity is more agreeable to truth: therefore I have confined myself to this unexceptionable kind of evidence for the proof of the latter, and have made the scripture its own interpreter. But our adversaries, though they allow the sufficiency of the scripture, and unjustly pretend to distinguish themselves from us by insisting upon it, do nevertheless make such frequent use of a lower sort of evidence to bias common readers, and shew the expediency of what they are pleased to call reformation; that I have thought proper to exibit a specimen of their method of proceeding in that respect, by adding to this edition *A Letter to the Common People, in answer to some popular arguments against the trinity.* These arguments are extracted chiefly from a small book, entitled, *An Appeal to the Common Sense of all Christian people;* a thing very highly commended by the author of the *Confessional.*† But in this author's estimation, every writer that op-

* *Carpzov.* Pref. in Pseudo Critic: *Whistonii.*

† "Which book," (says he) "has passed through two editions without any sort of reply that I have heard of. This looks as if *able* ters were not *willing* to meddle with the subject, or that *willing* writers were not *able* to manage it," p. 320. The Rev. Mr. *Landon* published an answer to this book in 1764, printed for *Whiston* and *White*: and he has mentioned another himself in a *note*. But had the case really been as he hath reported in his text, it will by no means follow, that a book is therefore unanswerable, because it hath received no answer. If this be good logic, I could present him with a conclusion or two, which he would not very well like

poses the faith of the church of *England*, is *ipso facto* invincible: and consequently, this retailer of Dr. *Clarke's* opinions, whoever he is, must come in for his share of merit and applause; which I by no means envy him.

So far as the scripture itself hath been thought to furnish any objections to the received doctrine, I judged it the fairer and the surer way, to answer them as they were offered by Dr. *Clarke* himself; and have therefore no apology to make for neglecting some of his disciples, who have not made any improvement on his arguments; as I do not find that this gentleman hath: the second edition of whose Appeal was published in 1754, since which there have been two editions of the *Catholic doctrine in England*, and one or more in *Ireland*.

By all the observations I have been able to make, the greater number of those who disbelieve the trinity upon principle (for many do it implicitly, and are credulous in their unbelief) do not profess to take their notions of God from the Bible, but affect to distinguish themselves from the common herd by drawing them from the fountains of reason and philosophy. We cannot be persuaded, that the trinity is denied by reasoners of this complexion, because the scripture hath *not revealed* it: but do rather suspect, that some philosophers dissent from this point of Christian doctrine, because they are not humble enough to take the scripture as a test of their religious opinions. In which case, the whole labor of collecting of texts, and framing of comments, and fishing for various readings, is an after-thought. It is submitted to rather for apology than for proof: to reconcile readers of the scripture to that doctrine, which they would be more jealous of receiving if they knew it to have been originally borrowed from another quarter. He that would deceive a *Christian*, can seldom do his work effectually without a Bible in his hand: a consideration, which may help us to a sight of the consequences, if persons were per-

mitted to teach in our churches without any previous inquiry concerning their religious sentiments, and so allowed to take the same liberty, either through mistake or ill design, as was taken by the arch deceiver in the wilderness,* who never meant to use the scripture for edification, but only for destruction; not to apply it as an instrument of good, but to turn it, as far as he was able, into an instrument of evil. The Bible was given us for the preservation of the kingdom of Christ upon earth; as the book of statutes in this kingdom is intended to secure the authority of the government, together with the life, peace, and property of every individual; and we want no prophet to foreshew us the consequences, if all the malcontents in the nation were allowed to be public interpreters of the laws.

These considerations I leave the judicious to apply as they find occasion. I use them chiefly as hints, for the benefit both of such as may be in danger of wresting the scriptures to their own destruction, and of such philosophers as those alluded to by St. *Paul*,† who through the *profession* of fancied *wisdom* fell into real *folly*, and purchased a reputed knowledge of things natural and metaphysical, at the lamentable expence of losing the knowledge of *God*.

PLUCKLEY, *Jan.* 1, 1767.

* *Matt.* iv. 6. † *Rom.* i. 22. 1 *Cor.* i. 21.

TO THE READER.

THE Christian religion is best known and distinguished by the *God* proposed in it, as the object of our faith and obedience: and as there is no true religion, but the religion of Christians, so is there no true God, but the God of Christians.

Before the coming of *Christ*, and the fulfilling of the law, God was known by the name of *Jehovah*, the God of *Abraham*, and of *Isaac*, and of *Jacob*. The *Israelites*, who were the seed of *Abraham*, and drew their whole religion from a divine revelation, had the knowledge of the true God; and the people of every other nation, who were *aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise*, were also *without God in the world*.[a] Though they talked much of God, and wrote much of him, and offered him many sacrifices, yet they knew him not: the being they served, was not God, but another in the place of him, falsely called by his name. And though some modern Christians have forgot there was any difference, yet the very *heathens* themselves, upon some occasions, were ready enough to allow it. *Naaman* the *Syrian*, when he was cured of his leprosy by the prophet *Elisha*, made a public confession of it—*Be-*

a Ephesians ii. 12.

hold, now I know that there is no God *in all the earth, but in* Israel.[b] The same is affirmed by the inspired psalmist—All *the Gods of the heathens are* idols;[c] and God himself declares them *all* to have been *vanities*.[d]

The case is now with the *Christians* under the gospel, as it anciently was with the *Jews* under the law: they believe in the only true God; while the unchristian part of mankind, who are by far the majority, either know him not, or wilfully deny him; as *Pharaoh* did the *God of the Hebrews* when he was told of him. And we are now got to such a pitch of indevotion and ignorance, that among those who profess and call themselves *Christians*, there are too many who are almost come to be *heathens* without knowing it. For there is a fashionable notion propagated by most of our moral writers, and readily subscribed to by those who say their prayers but seldom, and can never find time to read their Bible, that all who worship any God, worship the *same* God; as if we worshipped the three letters of the *word* God, instead of the *being* meant and understood by it. The *universal prayer* of Mr. *Alexander Pope* was composed upon this plan; wherein the supreme being is addressed as a common *father of all*, under the names, *Jehovah*, *Jove*, and *Lord*. And this humour of confounding things, which ought to be distinguished at the peril of our souls, and of comprehending *believers* and *idolators* under one and the same religion, is called a *catholic spirit*, that shews the very exaltation of Christian charity. But God, it is to be feared, will require an account of it under

b 2 Kings v. 15. c Psalm xcvi. 5. d Jeremiah xiv. 22.

another name; and though the *poet* could see no difference, but has mistaken *Jove* or *Jupiter* for the same *father of all* with the *Lord Jehovah*; yet the *apostle* has instructed us better; who, when the *priest of Jupiter* came to offer sacrifice, exhorted him very passionately to *turn from those vanities unto the living God*;[e] well knowing that he whom the *priest* adored under the name of *Jupiter*, was not the *living God*, but a creature, a nothing, a *vanity*. Yet the catholic spirit of a moralist can discern no difference; and while it pretends some zeal for a sort of universal religion, common to *believers* and *infidels*, betrays a sad indifference for the Christian religion in particular. This error is so monstrous in a land enlightened by the gospel, and yet so very common amongst us at present, that I may be pardoned for speaking of it in the manner it deserves. And let me beseech every serious person, who is willing to have his prayers heard, to consider this matter a little better, and use a more correct form; for God, who is jealous of his honor, and has no communion with idols, will certainly reject the petition that sets him upon a level with *Baal* and *Jupiter*.

The *true God* is he that was *in Christ reconciling the world to himself*; there is none other but he; and if this great characteristic be denied, or any other assumed in its stead, a man is left *without God*; after which, he may call himself a *Deist*, if he will; but his God is a mere idol of the imagination, and has no corresponding reality in the whole universe of beings.

e Acts xiv. 15.

The modern *Jews*, by denying their *God* to have been *manifest in the flesh*, are as effectually departed from the *true* God, as their forefathers were, when they danced before the golden calf, and called their idolatrous service *a feast to the Lord.* For the being of God is not an object of sight, but of faith; it enters first into the heart; and if it be wrong there, the *first* commandment is broken: if a figure of it be set up before the eyes, then the *second* is broken likewise. The first forbids us to *have* any other God; the second, to make any graven *image* of him. Now though we make no image, yet if with the heart we *believe* in any God different from the true, the idolatry indeed may be less, but the apostacy is the same. And this seems to be the case of the *Jew.*

The *Mahometans* are another set of infidels, who *abhor idols*, but have in express terms denied the *Son of God*, and set up an idol of the imagination, a God in *one person.* They inveigh bitterly against the *Christians* for worshipping *three Gods;* for so they state the doctrine of a trinity in *unity*, as some others have done beside them.

In answer to all these abominations of the *Deist*, the *Jew*, and the *Mahometan*, and to shew that no unbeliever of any denomination can be a servant of the *true God*, it is written—*whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father*:[f] and again—*whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of* Christ, *hath not* GOD.[g] And let the *Socinians*, who have not only vindicated the religion of *Mahomet*, but preferred it to

f 1 John ii. 23. g 2 John 9.

the Christianity of the Church of *England*, which with them is *no better nor other than a sort of paganism and heathenism*,* let them consider what a share they have in this condemnation.

And to bring this matter home to the *Arians;* it is to be observed, that every article of the Christian faith depends upon the doctrine of a trinity in unity. If that be given up, the other doctrines of our religion must go with it, and so it has been in fact, that the authors who have written against the trinity, have also disputed away some other essential parts of Christianity; particularly the doctrines of the *satisfaction* and of *original sin*.

The whole *Bible* treats of little else but our *creation, redemption, sanctification, resurrection and glorification*, by the power of *Christ* and the *Holy Spirit:* and the reader will find hereafter, that there is neither name, act, nor attribute of the godhead, that is not shared in common by all the persons of the trinity. If, therefore, the persons of *Christ* and the *Spirit* are not *God* in the unity of *the Father*, then the prayers and praises we offer to them, as the authors of every blessing, will not be directed to the supreme Lord and God, beside whom no other is to be *worshipped*, but to his creatures and instruments: which overthrows the sense of our whole religion; and drives us upon a sort of second-rate faith and worship, which, beside

* See *Leslie's* Theological works, fol. vol. i. p. 218. where the reader may find a great deal more to the same purpose; and particularly an epistle of the *Socinians*, to the *Morocco* embassador, in the time of *Charles* II. a great curiosity, wherein their whole scheme is laid open to the bottom *by themselves*.

the blasphemy of it, can be nothing but confusion and contradiction. It is no wonder then, that the *Arians* and *Socinians*, with their several under-sects and divisions, who have fallen into this snare, and departed from the divine *unity*, while they pretend to be the only men who assert it, have never yet been able to agree in the forms of religious worship. Some of them allowing that *Christ* is to receive divine worship, but always with this reserve, that the prayer tend ultimately to the person of *the Father*. So that *Christ* is to be worshipped, only he is not to be worshipped: and if you should venture, when you are at the point of death, to say with St. *Stephen*—Lord Jesus, *receive my spirit*[h]—and confess the person of *Jesus* to be *the God of the spirits of all flesh*[i] by committing your own spirit into his hands; you are to take care not to die without throwing in some qualifying comment, to assure him you do it only in hypocrisy, not meaning him but another. Others, again, knowing this distinction to be vain and indefensible, and the same for substance with the *Latria* and *Dulia* by which the church of *Rome* excuses her adoration of the *blessed Virgin*, &c. have fairly got rid of it, by denying to the person of *Christ* any *divine* worship or invocation at all; which is the case with our *Socinian Unitarians* here in *England*; for those of *Poland* are quite of another mind.

How far such differences as these must needs affect a *liturgy*, it is very easy to foresee: and that it will for ever be as impossible to frame a creed or service to please all those who bear the name of *Christians*, as

h Acts vii. 59. i Numbers xvi. 22.

to make a coat that shall fit men of all sizes.* *Prayer* and divine *worship* and religious *confession*, are the fruit and breath of *faith*; and *out of the abundance of the* heart, *the mouth speaketh*:[k] so that until we are agreed in matters of *faith*, there is neither hope nor possibility of our agreeing in any form of *worship*. God is the fountain-head, and religion the stream that descends from it. Our sentiments as to religion, always flow from the opinion we have formed of the divine nature; and will be right or wrong, sweet or bitter, as the fountain is from whence they are derived. It is the having a different God, that makes a different religion. A true God produces a true religion; a false God, a false religion. *Jews*, *Turks*, *Pagans*, *Deists*, *Arians*, *Socinians* and *Christians*, all differ about a religion, because they differ about a God.

These few observations will be sufficient, I hope, to raise the attention of the reader; and persuade him, that a right faith in God is a much more serious affair than some would make it; that it is of the last concern, and hath a necessary influence upon the practice and holiness of our lives; that as no other devo-

k Matthew xii. 34.

* *Hales* of *Eton*, in his sarcastic and malicious *Tract upon Schism*, proposes it as a grand expedient for the advancing of *unity*, that we should "consider all the liturgies, that are and ever have been; and remove from them whatever is scandalous to any party, and leave nothing but what *all agree on*." He should have closed this sentence a little sooner; and advise us fairly and honestly to *leave nothing*; for that will certainly be the event, when the objections of *all parties* are suffered to prevail; there being no one page of the *liturgy*, wherein *all* who pretend to worship God as *Christians*, are *agreed*.

tion is acceptable with God, but that which is seasoned with love and charity and uniformity, the very mark and badge whereby his disciples are to be known from the men of this world, it is the principal duty of every *Christian* to know in *whom* he ought to *believe*, that *with one mind, and with one mouth we may glorify God*.[1] for a right notion of God, will as surely be followed by a sound faith, and an uniform profession in all other points, as a false faith and a discordant worship will grow from every wrong opinion of him.

All that can be known of the true God, is to be known by *revelation*. The false lights indeed of reason and nature are set up and recommended, as necessary to assist and ratify the evidence of revelation: but inquiries of this kind, as they are now managed, generally end in the degradation of *Christ*, and the Christian religion:* till it can be shewn therefore that the scripture neither does nor can shine by a light and authority of *its own*, the evidence we are to rest in, must be drawn from thence: and as we all have the same scripture, without doubt we ought all to have the same opinion of God.

But here it is commonly objected, that men will be of different opinions, and that they have a right to judge for themselves; and that when the best evidence the nature of the case will admit of is collected and laid before them, they must determine upon it *as*

1 Rom. xv. 6.

* You may have a proof of this from the *Essay on Spirit*, by comparing the book with its *title*, which runs thus—*The Doctrine of the Trinity considered in the light of* Reason *and* Nature, &c.

it appears to them, and according to the *light* of their own *consciences:* so that if they adhere as closely to their errors after they have consulted the proper evidence as they did before, we are neither to wonder nor to be troubled at it.

This very moderate and benevolent way of thinking, has been studiously recommended by those, who found it necessary to the well-being of their own opinions, that not a spark of zeal should be left amongst us. And surely it is no new thing, that the advocates of any particular error, next to themselves and their own fashion, should naturally incline to those who are softest, and stand least in the way. Hence it is, that however *magisterial and insolent they may* carry themselves in their own cause; they always take care to season their writings with the praises of this frozen indifference, calling that *Christian* charity, which is nothing but the absence of Christianity: and any the least appearance of earnestness for some great and valuable truth, which we are unwilling to part with, because we hope to be saved by it, is browbeaten, condemned, and cast out of their moral system, under the name of *heat*, *want of temper*, *fire*, *fury*, &c. They add moreover, that articles of faith are things merely *speculative:* and that it is of little signification what a man believes, if he is but hearty and *sincere* in it: that is, in other words, it is a mere trifle whether we feed upon bread* or poison;† the one will prove to be as good nourishment as the other, provided it be eaten

* See and compare Deut. viii. 3. Amos viii. 11. Acts xx. 28.

† James iii. 8. 1 Tim. iv. 1.

with an appetite. Yet some well-meaning people are so puzzled and deceived by this sophistry, that they look upon concord among *Christians* as a thing impracticable and desperate; concluding a point to be *disputable* because it is *disputed*; and so they fall into a loose indifferent humor of palliating and thinking charitably, as it is called, of every error in faith and practice; as if the church of *Christ* might very innocently be turned into a *Babel* of confusion.

Now that men do maintain opinions strangely different from one another, especially on subjects wherein it most concerns them to be agreed, is readily confessed: we are all witnesses of it: and, allowing them to be equally informed, there are but three possible sources from whence this difference can arise. It must be either from God, or from the scripture, or from themselves. From God it cannot be, for it is a great evil; it is the triumph of Deists and reprobates, and the best handle the enemies of Christianity ever found against it: and God is not the author of evil. Nor can it be from the scripture: to draw it thence, is but another way of imputing it to God. The scripture is his word; and he is answerable for the effect of his words when written or reported, as when they are suggested at first hand by the voice of his holy Spirit. It remains therefore, that the only source of this evil must be the heart of man: and that it is really so, will be evident from the scripture, and the plainest matters of fact. The account we have of this affair is, in short, as follows—Ever since the *fall*, the nature of man has been blind and corrupt; his *under-*

standing darkened,[m] and his affections polluted: upon the face of the whole earth, there is no man, *Jew* or *Gentile*, that *understandeth and seeketh after God*;[n] the *natural man*, or man remaining in that state wherein the fall left him, is so far from being able to discover or know any religious truth, that he hates and flies from it when it is proposed to him; he *receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God*.[o] Man is natural and earthly; the things of God are spiritual and heavenly; and these are contrary one to the other: therefore, as the *wisdom of this world is foolishness with God*,[p] so the wisdom of God is foolishness with the world. In a word, the sense man is now possessed of, where God does not restrain it, is used for evil and not for good: his *wisdom is earthly, sensual*,* *devilish*;[q] it is the sagacity of a brute,[r] animated by the malignity of an evil spirit.

This being the present state of man, the scripture does therefore declare it necessary, that he should be *transformed by the renewing of his mind*,[s] and restored to that *sound mind*[t] *and light of the understanding*,[u] that *spiritual discernment*,[w] with which the human nature was endued when it came from the hands of God, but to which it has been *dead* from the *day* that evil was brought into the world. And where the grace of God that should open the eyes, and prepare the heart to receive instruction,[x] has been obstinately

m Eph. iv. 18.
n Rom. iii. 11.
o 1 Cor. ii. 14.
p Ibid iii. 19.
q James iii. 15.
r Jude 10.
s Rom. xii. 2.
t 2 Tim. i. 7.
u Eph. i. 18.
w 1 Cor. ii. 14.
x Pro. xx. 12. & xvi. 1.

* Ψυχικὸν Natural.

withstood and resisted; this blindness, which at first was only *natural*, becomes *judicial;* from being a defect, it is confirmed into a judgment; and men are not only unable to discern the truth, but are settled and riveted in error: which is the case with all those to whom *God sends strong delusion that they should believe a lie, and have pleasure in unrighteousness.*[y] It is then they sit down in the *seat of the scornful*, as *fools*, that *make a mock at sin*,[z] and *despisers of those that are good*;[a] hating and railing at their fellow-creatures, only because they are endued with the fear of God! This is the last stage of blindness; and it is referred to in those words of the apostle—*If our gospel be* hid, *it is* hid *to them that are* lost:[b] as also in that lamentation of our blessed Lord over the city of *Jerusalem—If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things that belong to thy peace! but now they are* hid *from thine eyes.*[c]

The absolute necessity of God's grace to *lighten our darkness*, has often been largely and faithfully insisted upon by the writers and preachers of the church of *England* but since a spirit of *Deism* has crept in among us, it has been openly slighted and contemned by some, and too much neglected by others; which has given an opportunity to several sorts of enthusiasts to make a wrong use of it: such as our *Quakers*, *Methodists*, and particularly the reverend Mr. *William Law*, who, after writing so excellently upon the vanity of the world, and the follies of hu-

y 2 Thess. ii. 11. a 2 Timothy iii. 3. c Luke xix. 42.
z Proverbs xiv. 9. b 2 Corinthians iv. 3.

man life, (on which subjects he has no superior) has left us nothing to depend upon but *imagination*, and reduced the whole evidence of Christianity to fancied impulses and inspiration; so as to render the scriptures useless, and the appointed *means* of grace contemptible. I have observed the like to have happened in many other instances; that where any essential point of doctrine has been dropt by the writers of the church, or at least not brought out to view so often as it should have been, it has been taken up by others, (as all *tares* are sown while the husbandmen are *asleep*) and employed under some false state of it, to the no small disadvantage of the church and the Christian religion.

To illustrate this subject a little farther, I shall make it appear by a few plain examples, that where mankind have been divided in their opinions with regard to any divine truth, it has not been owing to the ambiguity of its terms, or the defect of its evidence, but wholly and solely to the state and temper of the hearers. And thus *Christ* himself has instructed us in his parable of the *sower*; that where the good seed of the word perishes, it is to be imputed to the *ground* and not to the *seed*. How else can we account for it, that when *St. Paul* laid the evidence of the gospel before a large assembly of *Jews* at *Rome*, *some believed the things that were spoken, and some believed not*,[d] though the same things were spoken to all? Such in general was the success of the apostolical preaching; some few *receiving the word with*

[d] Acts xxviii. 24.

gladness, while others opposed themselves and blasphemed. And though it be supposed, that *words* are more easily misunderstood than *facts*, and may admit of a greater latitude: yet *here* we shall find, that the same spirit which has divided mankind in what are called the more speculative points of faith, will also divide them in the plainest and most striking matters of fact. The resurrection of *Lazarus* was a matter of fact, seen and attested by a competent number of witnesses: but how different was the effect of it upon different persons! for while it had its free course with many of the *Jews*, and moved them to *believe on Jesus*, it only moved *the chief priests* to hate him the more; and they consulted how *they might put Lazarus also to death*.[e] When *Jesus* cured the blind and cast out devils, some rightly concluded—*Rabbi, thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles, that thou dost, except God be with him*:[f] yet there were not a few, and they of the most learned and knowing too, who concluded far otherwise, that he *cast out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils*.[g] So likewise, when the Holy Ghost descended on the apostles, and inspired them with the gift of tongues, some *devout men* were amazed and confounded at the miracle; plainly seeing the hand of God in it, and asking what it *meant*, what was the end and design of it? and being informed by *St. Peter's* discourse, that it was to confirm the mission of *Jesus of Nazareth*, *received his word gladly, and were baptized*;[h] while

e John xii. 10, 11.
f John iii. 2.
g Matthew xii. 24.
h Acts ii. 41.

others, to avoid the conclusion, *mocking*, *said*, *these men are full of new wine.*[i] Here is a great multitude assembled together, all of them witnesses to the same fact: yet, in their *opinions* of it, they are as far asunder as drunkenness is from inspiration. But in this case no Christian will raise a doubt about the *real* inspiration of the apostles; or deny the power of God to have been sufficiently manifested, because some were so profane and senseless as to ridicule it, under the name of drunkenness.

This self-deceit always operates by the assistance of some false principle contrary to the scripture; which gets possession of the heart by ministering to the passions. *And till that* be dispossessed, no truth will be suffered to enter which can in the least affect or destroy it. A man in such circumstances may see the truth staring him in the face; and the clearer he sees it, the more he will be enraged at it. He may be convicted, and left without a word to say, but what will expose the hardness and perplexity of his heart; but till it be emptied of its evil treasure, and he becomes as a little child that has nothing of *its own* to oppose to the revelation of God, he cannot be *converted:* but will either shut his eyes and deny the evidence that is offered to him, or pretend it is a *nice point*, very difficult to be understood; and so give a perverse turn to it, though it be ever so plain and intelligible.

Till the disciples of *Christ* resigned themselves up to be led into all truth by the teaching of the Holy

i Acts v. 13. k John xvi. 12.

Spirit, they were in the state of mind I am now describing; dull of hearing, and doubtful, and slow of heart. They were often warned of it; particularly in the following words—*I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot* BEAR *them now.*[k] And as the divine wisdom made choice of such men for the good of those who should come after, so these things are written of them for our admonition. They had laid it down as a first principle, that their master's kingdom was to be *of this world:* and formed all their reasonings and expectations accordingly. One was to *sit at his right hand,* another *at his left;* and they were ever disputing which should be *the greatest.* Any occurrence that flattered this notion, was gladly received and made the most of; and every thing that could not be reconciled with it was thrust out of sight. When *the son of man began to teach them, that he must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again;*[l] all these things were so destructive of their principle, that *Peter* began to *rebuke him,* as if he heard blasphemy. *Christ* took an opportunity of inculcating this doctrine afresh, when they were in a state of conviction at seeing him perform a miracle; endeavoring, as it were, to surprise them into a confession of its truth: but the time was not yet. *While they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples, let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they understood*

k John xvi. 12. l Mark viii. 31

not this saying; it was hid from them, that they perceived it not.[m] The terms were clear and intelligible enough; and the ideas conveyed by them were all common and familiar: but if that saying were admitted, they must part with their beloved principle: therefore it follows that *they were afraid to ask him of that saying;* lest he should carry on the subject, and leave them no way to escape. They had already heard more than they would believe, and therefore, as to any thing farther, thought it best to remain in the dark.

In short, where there is a taste and relish for *the things that be of men*, more than for *the things that be of God*, and some principle is imbibed wherein the passions are strongly engaged, men are to be persuaded of any thing and of nothing: ready to take up with every despicable pretence, to prop and support their favorite opinion; and deaf to the plainest words and most infallible proofs, if they tend to establish the other side of the question. For example; that a *Messiah* was to deliver their nation, was allowed by all the *Jews;* and they were well agreed as to the time of his coming, and the place where he should be born. It was to be shewn, that *Jesus of Nazareth* was the person: and for a proof of it, they were bid to compare the scripture with the things he did and taught. *But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him;*[n] and as if he had left the proof of his mission obscure and defective, they came very formally to him to *ask a sign of him*, after

[m] Luke ix. 43, 44. [n] John xii. 37.

they had seen so many signs; and called out to the very last for better evidence, bidding him *come down from the cross*, that they might *see and believe*.[o] One would take these *Jews* to have been *sceptics*, who would persevere in their doubtings against every proposition that could be offered. But if we judge from their behaviour upon some other occasions, there never was a more credulous generation upon the face of the earth. They could receive full satisfaction from the most childish and inconsistent tales that ever were invented. The self-contradiction of *Satan casting out Satan*; or the report of a few heathen soldiers, who witnessed what was done *while they were asleep*, could pass for good gospel; while the most evident miracles, and the clearest prophecies, were all nothing to the purpose, where they did not like the conclusion. And for the same reason, the whole gospel itself, while it is the savour of life to some, is a savour of death to others! as different as life and death! yet nevertheless one and the same gospel. It is like the pillar that stood between the camp of *Israel* and the host of *Egypt*, which was a *cloud* to the one, and *light* to the other.[p] But who will deny that the light was clear to the *Israelites*, because the *Egyptians* saw nothing but a cloud of darkness?

Behold then the true source of all our religious differences: they proceed from the blindness and corruption of the human heart, increased and cherished by some false principle that suits with its appetites: and all the prudence and learning the world can boast,

o Mark xv. 32. p Exodus xiv. 20.

will exempt no child of *Adam* from this miserable weakness: nothing but the grace of God can possibly remove it. Where that is suffered to enter, and the heart, instead of persisting in its own will, is surrendered to the will of God, the whole gospel is sufficiently clear, because no text of it is any longer offensive. Of this happy change we have the best example in the apostles of our blessed *Saviour;* who, when they first entered the school of Christianity, had a veil upon their hearts like the rest of their countrymen, and were strongly possessed by a spirit of the world, promising itself the full enjoyment of temporal honors and preferments. But the sufferings and death of their master having shewed the vanity of such expectations, and served in a great measure to beat down this earthly principle, they were ready for conviction; and then *their understanding was opened, that they might understand the scriptures.*q The evidence that before was dark and inconclusive, became on a sudden clear and irresistible; and they, who had lately fled from disgrace and death as from the greatest of evils, could now *rejoice that they were found worthy to suffer.* Their opinion was altered, because their affections were cleansed from this world: that mire and *clay* was washed off from their eyes in the true waters of *Siloam*, and now they could *see all things clearly.*

What has been here said upon the conduct of our *Saviour's* disciples and the unbelieving *Jews*, may be applied to all those who dispute any article of the

q Luke xxiv. 45.

Christian faith; and particularly the doctrine of the *ever-blessed trinity*, as revealed to us in the holy scriptures. For we shall certainly find, that some false principle is assumed, which flatters the pride of human nature. It abhors restraint and subjection; and is ever aspiring, right or wrong, to be distinguished from the common herd, and to *exalt itself against the knowledge of God.*[r] What this principle is, we shall very soon discover: it is publicly owned and gloried in by every considerable writer that of late years has meddled with this subject. I shall instance in the learned *Dr. Clarke;* because he is deservedly placed at the head of the *Arian* disputants in this kingdom.

He affirms in his first *proposition*, that the ONE GOD, spoken of in Matt. xix. 17. and elsewhere, is only one PERSON; and then adds, "this is the *first principle of natural religion.*"*

So then here are two different religions; by one of which it is proved, that the *one God* is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: that he is therefore *three* persons. But it is the *first principle* of the other religion, that he is but *one* person: though how can that be reconciled with the practice of the whole heathen world, who are so far from discovering this *one person*, that they held *Gods many, and Lords many*,[s] is not very easy to determine. And whence comes this religion? It is confessed to be drawn from *nature!* It is the gospel of the *natural man*, unsanctified by divine

r 2 Cor. x. 5. s 1 Cor. viii. 5.

* See *Script. Doct.* p. ii. § 1.

grace, and uninstructed by any light from above; and owes its birth to that fountain of darkness and self-conceit, from whence has sprung all the confusion and imagination that ever was introduced into the religion of God. And what wonder, if *nature* should operate as strongly in an *Arian* or a *Socinian* against the mystery of the *trinity*, as it did in the *Jews* against the *law* and the *prophets*, and in the unconverted disciples against the doctrine of the *cross?* If it be laid down as a *first principle*, that God is but *one person;* then it will be utterly impossible, so long as this principle keeps possession, that any person, of common sense enough to know the meaning of words, should quietly receive and embrace a revelation in those parts of it, where it teaches us that God is *three persons:* these two principles being so diametrically opposite, that while he holds to the one, a voice from the dead will not persuade him of the other. Therefore, I say again, we ought not to wonder, if that man should remain for ever *invincible*, who BRINGS to the scripture that knowledge of God, which he is bound, as a Christian, to RECEIVE from it.

What then will be the consequence in this case? The practice of the *Deist*, who carries on this argument to its proper issue, is to *deny* the scripture revelation, because his *natural religion* is contrary to it; and they cannot both be true. But the partial unbeliever, who allows the scripture to be supported by such external evidence as he cannot answer, while his reason objects to the matter contained in it; must follow the example of the *Jews*, and *reconcile* the scripture where he cannot *believe* it. Thus they treated

the *law* of *Moses*. *We know*, said they, *that God spake unto* Moses:[t] therefore, they readily granted his law to have a divine authority: but as it would not serve their turn in its own proper words, they put a false gloss of tradition upon the face of it, to hide its true complexion; and then complained that the scripture was not clear enough: and if you used it as a testimony to *Jesus Christ* they would stone you for a *blasphemer*.

What shall we say then? that the *Jews* were of a *different opinion* from the *Christians?* and that this was *their way* of *understanding* the scripture? No: God forbid. For if we will believe the scripture itself, it was their way of *denying* it. *Had ye* BELIEVED Moses, says our Lord, *ye would have believed me:* and he gives us upon this occasion, the true grounds and reasons of their unbelief; because they *received honor one of another*, and had not the *love of God* in them.[u] Every hypothesis of human growth, which was pretty sure to agree with their complexion, and reflected some honor upon themselves by exalting the nature of man, that can make a *religion for itself*, and comes in its *own name*; *that* they would gladly *receive*. But if any thing was offered to them in the name of God, to be received for the love of him, and the spiritual comfort of a pure conscience, and the hope of a better world: it was rejected, as an encroachment upon their *natural rights*, and an invective against the innocent pleasures of a carnal *Jerusalem*. And so it is with us at this time: for if an author does but hang out the sign of *nature and reason* in his title-page, there are readers in plen-

t John ix. 29. u See John v. 39,—*ad fin.*

ty, who will buy up and swallow his dregs by wholesale: but if God, of his infinite mercy and condescension, shews to them the *way of salvation*, his words are to be abstracted from the evidence upon which he requires us to believe them, then put into this alembic of *reason*, and demonstrated to be no *poison*, before they can be brought to taste them. And if they should happen to be a little disagreeable to flesh and blood, and the operation should miscarry, the fault is charged upon God, and not upon themselves, who ought to have gone another way to work: as they will certainly find.

We conclude, therefore, because *Christ* has affirmed it, that every degree of doubt and disputation against the words of God, is just so much *unbelief*; proceeding not from the head or understanding, but from the heart[w] and affections. And the world is filled with the vain jangling of uncertainty, for this short reason—*all men have not* faith.[x]

w Heb. iii. 12. x 2 Thess. iii. 2.

ADVERTISEMENT.

In all the *texts* which are compared together in the following work, those particular words, whereon the stress of the comparison lies, are printed in *capitals;* that the argument obtained from them may shew itself to the reader upon the first inspection. And I hope, after what has been observed to him in the foregoing discourse, that this is the only admonition he will stand in need of. The arguments I have drawn from the scripture are, to the best of my knowledge, most of them new; and, if I may judge from my own mind, the manner in which they are laid down, is more likely to convince, than any I have yet seen. Had I thought otherwise, I could easily have forborne to trouble myself or the world with the transcribing and printing them. The end I have proposed is not

to obtain any reputation (to which this is not the way) but to do some little good, of which there is much need. I do therefore sincerely recommend the following work, and every reader of it, to the grace and blessing of almighty God, well knowing, that *unless the* LORD *keep the city, the* watchman *waketh but in vain.*

CHAPTER I.

THE

DIVINITY OF CHRIST.

I.

Isa. viii. 13, 14. Sanctify the LORD OF HOSTS HIMSELF, and let HIM be your fear, and let HIM be your dread: and HE shall be for a sanctuary; but for a STONE OF STUMBLING and ROCK OF OFFENCE to both houses of *Israel*.

1 Pet. ii. 7, 8. The stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a STONE OF STUMBLING and ROCK OF OFFENCE.

Instead of reasoning upon these words of the prophet *Isaiah*, according to any private interpretation, I add another passage of scripture, wherein they are expressly applied to the person of *Christ*; and then shew what must be the result of *both*. If the scripture, thus compared with itself, be drawn up into an

argument, the conclusion may indeed be *denied*, and so may the whole Bible, but it cannot be *answered*. For Example,

The *stone of stumbling*, and *rock of offence*, as the *former* text affirms, is the *Lord of hosts himself;* a name which the *Arians* allow to no other but the one, only, true, and supreme God.[a]

But, this *stone of stumbling* and *rock of offence*, as it appears from the *latter* text, is no other than *Christ*, the same stone which the *builders refused;* therefore,

Christ is the LORD OF HOSTS HIMSELF: and the *Arian* is confuted upon his own principles.

II.

Isa. vi. 5. Mine eyes have SEEN the king, the LORD OF HOSTS.

John xii. 41. These things said *Esaias*, when he SAW HIS (CHRIST'S) GLORY, and spake of HIM.

Jesus is the person here spoke of by *St. John;* whose *glory Esaias* is declared to have *seen* upon that occasion, where the prophet affirms of himself, that his eyes had *seen the Lord of hosts:* therefore,

Jesus is the LORD OF HOSTS.

III.

Isa. xliv. 6. Thus saith the *Lord*, the king

a See an *Essay on Spirit*, p. 65. *Clarke's* Doct. of the Trin. C. 10. § 3. 402.

of *Israel* and his Redeemer, the LORD OF HOSTS, I am THE FIRST, and I am THE LAST, and BESIDES ME there is NO GOD.

Rev. xxii. 13. I (*Jesus*) am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, THE FIRST and THE LAST.

The titles of *the first* and *the last* are confined to him alone, *besides whom there is no God;* but *Jesus* hath assumed these titles to *himself:* therefore *Jesus* is that *God, besides whom there is no other.* Or thus—there is no *God* besides him who is *the first* and *the last:* but, *Jesus* is *the first* and *the last;* therefore, *besides Jesus* there is *no* other *God.*

IV.

Isa. xliii. 11. I even I am the LORD, and BESIDES ME there is NO SAVIOUR.

2 Pet. iii. 18. OUR LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus Christ, then, is *our Saviour;* or, as he is called, John iv. 42. *the Saviour of the world.* But unless

a The argument drawn from this text will be equally convincing, which ever way it be taken—Jesus Christ is a *Saviour*, therefore he is *Jehovah, the Lord*—Jesus Christ is *Jehovah*, therefore he is *the Saviour*. The best observations I have ever met with upon the name *Jehovah*, and its application to the second person of the trinity, are to be found in a *Vindication of the Doctrine of the Trinity, from the exceptions of a late pamphlet, entitled an Essay on Spirit*—by the learned *Dr. T. Randolph*, president of C. C. C. in *Oxford;* which I would desire the reader to consult, from p. 61 to 71 of pt. I.

he were *God*, even the *Lord, Jehovah*, as well as man, he could not be a Saviour; because the *Lord* has declared, there is no Saviour beside *himself*. It is therefore rightly observed by the apostle, Phil. ii. 9. that *God*, in dignifying the man *Christ* with the name of JESUS, hath given him a name *above every name*, even that of a *Saviour*, which is his *own name*, and such as can belong to no other.

V.

Rev. xxii. 6. The LORD GOD of the *holy prophets* SENT HIS ANGEL to *shew* unto *his servants* the *things* which must shortly be done.

Ibid. v. 16. I JESUS have SENT MINE ANGEL to testify unto you *these things* in the *churches*.

The *angel* that appeared to *St. John* was the *angel of the Lord God*, and the Lord God *sent* him: but he was the *angel* of *Jesus*, and Jesus *sent* him; therefore, *Jesus is the Lord God of the holy prophets*.

VI.

Luke i. 76. And thou child shalt be called the prophet of THE HIGHEST, for thou shalt GO BEFORE the FACE of the LORD to PREPARE HIS WAYS.

Matth. xi. 10. Behold I send my messen-

ger BEFORE THY FACE TO PREPARE THY WAY before thee.

John the *Baptist* goes before the *face of the Lord*, that is, of the *highest*, whose *prophet* he is, to prepare *his* way. But he was sent as a messenger before *the face of Christ*, to prepare *his* way; who, therefore, is the *Lord* and the *highest*.

VII.

The two following texts are but a repetition of the same argument: but as they speak of *Christ* under a different name, they ought to have a place for themselves.

Luke i. 16, 17. And many of the children of *Israel* shall he turn to the LORD THEIR GOD: and he shall *go before* HIM.

Matth. iii. 11. HE that cometh AFTER ME is mightier than I, &c.

Here again, the *Baptist* is said to *go before* the *Lord God of the children of Israel:* but it is certain, he *went before* Jesus Christ, the only person who is said to *come after* him: therefore, *Jesus Christ* is the *Lord God of the children of* Israel. And the same title is given him in the prophet *Hosea—I will have mercy upon the house of* Judah, *and will* save *them by the* Lord their God: which can be no other than the voice of *God* the *Father*, promising *salvation* by the person of *God* the *Son*.

VIII.

Matth. xi. 10. Behold I send MY *messenger before* THY *face*, to prepare THY way *before* THEE.

Mal. iii. 1. Behold I send MY messenger to prepare the way *before* ME.

As this prophesy is worded by *St. Matthew*, (as also by *St. Mark*[a] and *St. Luke*[b]) there is a personal distinction between him who *sends* his *messenger*, and *Christ* before whom the *messenger is sent*—*I send* MY *messenger*—*to prepare thy way* before THEE. But the *prophet* himself has it thus—*I send* MY *messenger*, *to prepare the way* before ME. Yet the *evangelist* and the *prophet* are both equally correct and true. For though *Christ* be a *different person*, yet he is *one* and the *same God* with *the Father*. And hence it is, that with the *evangelist*, the persons are not *confounded*; with the *prophet* the *godhead* is not *divided*. This argument, may serve to justify an excellent observation of our church in the *homily* upon the resurrection—"How dare we be so bold to renounce the presence of the *Father*, *Son and Holy Ghost?* for where *one* is, there is *God* all *whole* in majesty, together with all his power, wisdom, and goodness."

IX.

Psalm lxxviii. 56. They TEMPTED and provoked the MOST HIGH GOD.

a Mark i. 2. b Luke vii. 27.

1 Cor. x. 9. Neither let us TEMPT CHRIST as some of *them* also *tempted*.

These texts do both relate to the same rebellious acts of the *Israelites* in the *wilderness*. In the *former* of them, the person they *tempted* is called the *most high God*: in the *latter* he is called *Christ*: therefore, *Christ* is the *most high God*.

X.

John iii. 29. He that hath the bride, is THE BRIDEGROOM*—(meaning *Christ*.)

But, according to the prophet,

Isa. liv. 5. Thy maker is thine HUSBAND, the LORD OF HOSTS is his name.

* Another title of eminence, that shews *Christ* to be upon an equality with *God the Father*, is to be collected from the following scriptures.

Psalm xxiii. 1. The LORD (Heb. *Jehovah*) is my SHEPHERD.

John x. 16. There shall be one fold, and ONE SHEPHERD.

If *Christ* be not the *Lord*, in unity with the *Father*, there must of course be *two distinct beings*, to whom the scripture has appropriated this character of a *shepherd*; and that would make *two shepherds*. But *Christ* has affirmed there is but *one shèpherd*, that is *himself*, THE SHEPHERD *of the sheep*, v. 2. whom St. *Peter* calls the *chief shepherd*, 1 Pet. v. 4. So again—

Psalm c. 3. Know ye that the LORD he is GOD—we are HIS people and the SHEEP of HIS pasture.

John x. 3. HE (that is *Christ* himself) calleth HIS OWN SHEEP.

And again—John xxi. 16. *Feed* MY *sheep*—said *Christ* to *St. Peter*: which in the language of *St. Peter* himself, 1 Pet. v. 2. is—Feed the flock of GOD.

And the *church*, which is the *bride of Christ*, can no more have two distinct *husbands*, than *Christ* can have two distinct *churches*. As the church is the *bride*, the *body*, the *building* of God; and as there is *one* bride, *one* body, *one* building; so *is* there, on the other hand, *one* God, who is the *husband* or *bridegroom*; *one* Christ, who is the *head*; *one* God with the Lamb, who is the *light* of it. Compare also, Jer. iii. 1. and 31, 32. Ezek. xvi. Hos. ii. Matth. ix. 15.—xxv. 1. 2 Cor. ii. 2. Eph. v. 23. Rev. xix. 7. and xxi. 2, 9.

XI.

Here follow some single texts, to which I add no parallels; there being no danger of mistaking their *application*.

John xx. 28. And *Thomas* answered and said, MY LORD and MY GOD.

XII.

Rom. ix. 5. Of whom as concerning the flesh CHRIST came, who is over all, GOD BLESSED for EVER. *Amen*.

XIII.

2 Pet. i. 1. Through the righteousness of OUR GOD *and Saviour* JESUS CHRIST.

The *Greek* is—τυ Θευ ημων κ̀ Σωτηρ Ιησυ Χριςυ —the very same, as to the order and grammar of the

words, with the last verse of this epistle—του Κυριου ημων, και Σωτηρος Ιησου Χριστου—which is thus rendered in our English version—*of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* And so, without doubt, it should be in the other passage, there being no possible reason why, του Θεου ημων, should not signify *our God*, as well as του Κυριου ημων, *our Lord.* It is not my design to cast any reflection upon the wisdom of our excellent and orthodox *translators* (whose version, taken altogether, is without exception the best extant in the world) or to advance this as any discovery of my own: for the *translators* themselves have preserved the true rendering in the *margin;* declaring it, by their customary note, to be the *literal* sense of the *Greek.*

There is another expression, Tit. ii. 13. that ought to be classed with the foregoing. *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing,* του μεγαλου Θεου και Σωτηρος ημων Ιησου Χριστου, *of our* great God *and Saviour Jesus Christ.* Of which a great man, deep in the *Arian* scheme, gives this desponding account—"Many understand this whole sentence to belong to one and the same person, viz. *Christ:* as if the words should have been rendered, *the appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.* Which construction the words will indeed bear; as do also those in 2 Pet. i. 1. But it is much more *reasonable* and more agreeable to the *whole tenor of scripture* to understand the former part of the words to relate to the *Father.*"[a] As for the *whole tenor of the scripture*, it is a weighty phrase, but very easily made use of in any cause good or bad

a Clarke's Doct. of the Trinity, C. 2. § 1. 541.

so I shall leave the reader to judge of *that*, after it has been exhibited to him in the following pages. And as for the *reasonableness* of the thing itself, let any serious person consider, whether the doctrine of the scripture is not more *rational* under the orthodox application of these words, than under that of this author. For to allow, as he does, that *Christ* is *God*, but not the *great God*, is to make *two Gods*, a *greater* and a *lesser*, which is no very *rational* principle. And I make not the least doubt, but this author, had he been dressing up a system of *natural religion*, would have protested against a notion so absurd and impious. But when the *scripture* was to be *dealt* with, he chose it as the lesser of two evils, the greater of which, was the doctrine he had *subscribed* to.

XIV.

2 Cor. v. 19. GOD WAS IN CHRIST, reconciling the world to HIMSELF.

It is allowed on all hands, that the *world* was *reconciled* by Christ Jesus to the *one*, *only*, *great*, and *supreme God*. But, this very *same God* (for the word is but *once* used in the whole sentence) was *in* Christ; manifest in the flesh, and *reconciling the world to* himself. And were there no other passage of scripture to be found, this alone is sufficient to overthrow the whole doctrine of *Arianism*; which, as far as the scripture is concerned, depends upon this one assertion—that "the word of GOD, in scripture, NEVER signifies a complex notion of *more persons than one*;

but ALWAYS means *one person only*, viz. either the person of the *Father* singly, or the person of the *Son* singly."[a] Which is absolutely false; for here it signifies *both*. The text considers *God* as agent and patient at the same time, and upon the same occasion; as the *reconciler* of the world, in the *person* of the *Son*; and the object to whom the *reconciliation was made*, in the *person* of the *Father*; yet there is but one word (*God*) to express them *both*. So that the word *God*, though of the *singular* number, is of a *plural* comprehension. And thus I find it to have been taken by some of the most eminent writers before the council of *Nice*, "*Plasmatus in initio homo permanus* DEI, *id est*, FILII & SPIRITUS," says *Irenæus*;[b] putting the singular name of *God*, for the *two persons* of the *Son* and *Spirit*. And the same word, in the language of *Origen* (if we are allowed to take the version of *Ruffinus* as genuine) includes the whole *three* persons —*Igitur de* DEO *id est de* PATRE & FILIO & SPIRITU *sancto*.[c] And our excellent church has used the word *God* in the same comprehensive sense; as in the *blessing* after the communion service—GOD ALMIGHTY, *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost*.

XV.

John xiv. 11. I am in the Father, and the Father IN ME.

Compare this with the foregoing article.

a *Clarke's* S. D. P. II. § 33.
b Lib. V. § 23.
c *De principiis*. Lib. IV. C. 2.

XVI.

1 Cor. v. 20. We are embassadors for CHRIST, as though GOD did BESEECH you by us. We PRAY you IN CHRIST'S STEAD be ye reconciled to GOD.

The usefulness of this text to our present subject, lies in these words—"In *Christ's* stead we *pray*, as though "*God* did *beseech*"—where the interchanging of the names *God* and *Christ*, shews the *same person* to be entitled to *both*.

XVII.

1 John v. 20. We are in him that is true, even in his Son JESUS CHRIST: THIS IS the TRUE GOD and eternal life.

XVIII.

Col. ii. 8, 9. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after CHRIST: for IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY.

The *apostle* foresaw, that a thing calling itself *philosophy* would set all its engines at work to destroy

the notion of *Christ's* true and absolute divinity—"*For in him* (says he) *dwelleth all the fulness of the godhead bodily, philosophy* will dispute this: and undertake to *demonstrate* the contrary. But if you listen to such *vain deceit*, it will overthrow your faith, and *spoil* you for a disciple of *Jesus Christ*; therefore —*beware*."

XIX.

John i. 1. The WORD was GOD.

XX.

Isa. ix. 6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the MIGHTY GOD, the EVERLASTING FATHER.

XXI.

Jer. xxiii. 6. This is the name whereby he shall be called, the *Lord* (JEHOVAH) our righteousness.

XXII.

Isa. ii. 17, 18. The LORD ALONE shall be EXALTED in that *day*: and the IDOLS he shall utterly abolish.

"*Idolatry* is the reverse, and direct opposite to *Christianity* (or, the *day* of *Christ.*) To destroy this, was the great end of *Christ's coming* into the world. But except he were *God*, the *very* and *eternal God*, of *one substance* with the *Father*, his religion would be so far from *destroying idolatry*, that it would only be a more refined and dangerous species of it. The prophet therefore, concludes all, that so he might acquit the worship of *Christ* from all the charge of *idolatry*, with this positive assertion; that it would prove the most effectual means of putting an end to all false and idolatrous worship: *the idols he shall utterly abolish.* The like conclusion we meet with in the apostle *St. John;* who having affirmed that *Jesus Christ* is *the true God and eternal life*, immediately subjoins and closes all with this advice—*little children keep yourselves from* IDOLS."

This remark is taken from the first volume of *an Essay upon the Proper Lessons;* written as I am told, by a gentleman of the laity. There needs no apology for setting it down; it being of good use in the subject I am upon. And it also gives me an occasion of returning thanks to the pious and learned author of that excellent work, not for myself only, but for many sincere friends to the religion of *Christ* and the church of *England*, among whom his labors are not without their fruit; and I am confident they will not be without their reward: but the author must be content to wait for it, till *Wisdom shall be justified of all her children.*

XXIII.

Rev. i. 8. I am *alpha* and *omega*, the be-

ginning and the ending, saith the LORD, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the ALMIGHTY.

If the reader will be pleased to examine the 13th and 17th verses of this chapter, it will appear that this 8th verse was undoubtedly spoken from the mouth of *Christ*: who therefore has a just title to every name and attribute expressed in it; and among the rest to that of the *Almighty*.

Origen, who certainly was no *Arian*, though often represented as such, by some who would be pleased to have the vote of so celebrated a genius, has the following observation—"Now that you may know the *omnipotence* of the *Father* and the *Son* to be *one* and the *same* as HE is ONE and the SAME GOD and LORD with the FATHER, hear what *St. John* had said in the *Revelation*—These things, *saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty*." For who is the *Almighty* that *is to come*, but *Christ*?[a]

XXIV.

The texts that follow, with this mark, (†) prefixed to them, are such as have been abused by the *Arians* to support their heresy: and to the best of my know-

a Ut autem *unam* & *eandem omnipotentiam Patris* & *Filii* esse cognoscas sicut *unus* atque *idem* est cum *Patre Deus* & *Dominus*, audi hoc modo *Joan*, in *Apocalypsi* dicentem: *Hæc dicit Dominus Deus qui est, & qui erit, & qui venturus est omnipotens.* Qui enim venturus est *omnipotens*, quis est alius nisi *Christus*?—*De principiis Lib.* i. C. 2.

ledge, there are some of every sort. But when the scripture is brought to declare its *own* sense of them, they will either appear to be nothing to the purpose, or confirm and *preach* the *faith* they have been supposed to *destroy*.

† Matth. xix. 17. Why callest thou ME GOOD? there is none good but ONE, that is, GOD.

The objection is founded upon the *Greek*, which runs thus—Ουδεις εστιν αγαθος, ει μη εις, ο Θεος. *There is none good but* εις, one; and *that* (one) *is*, ο Θεος, *God*. Whence it is argued, that the adjective εις being in the *masculine* gender, cannot be interpreted to signify one *being* or *nature* (for then it should have been EN, in the *neuter*) but *one person*: so that by confining the attribute of *goodness* to the single person of *the Father*, it must of course exclude the persons of the *Son* and *Holy Ghost* from the *unity* of the *godhead*.

To say the truth, I think this is the most plausible objection I have ever met with; and I have sincerely endeavored to do it justice. If it is capable of being set, in a stronger light, any man is welcome to add what he pleases to it. For supposing the word εις to signify *one person* (and in that lies the whole force of the argument) then if *one person* only is *good*, and that person is *God*; it must also follow that there is but one person who is *God*: the name of *God* being as much confined hereby to a *single person*, as the attribute of *goodness*. But this is utterly false; the names of

God, Lord, Lord of hosts, the Almighty, Most High, Eternal, God of Israel, &c. being also acribed to the *second* and *third persons* of the blessed *trinity*. Take it this way therefore, and the objection by proving too much, confutes itself, and proves nothing.

The truth is, this criticism, upon the strength of which some have dared to undeify their Saviour, has no foundation in the original. The word εἷς is so far from requiring the substantive *person* to be understood with it, that it is put in the *masculine* gender to agree with its substantive Θεός, and is best construed by an adverb. If you follow the Greek by a literal translation, it will be thus—*There is none good*—εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός—*but the one God*; that is, in common English *but God only*. And it happens that the same *Greek*, word for word, occurs in Mark ii. 7.—*Who can forgive sins*—εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός—*but God only*: so it is rendered by our translators: and we have a plain matter of fact, that εἷς in this place cannot possibly admit the sense of *one person*, because *Christ*, who is *another person*, took upon him to *forgive sins*. In the parallel place of *St. Luke's* gospel,[a] the expression is varied, so as to make it still clearer—εἰ μὴ μονος ὁ Θεός—not εἷς but μονος another adjective of the *masculine* gender; which, though it agree with its substantive Θεός, is rightly construed an *adverb*—either the *alone God*, or *God only*. And the Greek itself uses one for the other indifferently—as, ἐπ' ἀρτῳ μονῳ, *by bread only*[b]—ἐν λογῳ μονον, *in word only*.[c] The utmost that can be gathered, therefore, from these words, is no more than this,

a Luke v. 21. b Matth. iv. 4. c 1 Thess. i. 5.

that there is *one God*, (in which we are all agreed) and that there is *none good* beside him; which no body will dispute. Whether in this *God* there be *one person*, or *three*, remains yet to be considered: and the scripture is so express in other places, as to settle it beyond all dispute.

If it should here be asked, for what reason *Christ* put this question—"Why callest thou me *good?*" I answer; for the same reason that he asked the *Pharisees*, why *David* in spirit *called him LORD*;[a] and that was, to try if they were able to account for it. This *ruler*, by addressing our Saviour under the name of *good master*, when the inspired psalmist had affirmed long before, that *there is none that doeth* GOOD, no NOT ONE;[b] did in effect allow him to be *God*; no mere man, since the fall of *Adam*, having any claim to that character. And when he was called upon to explain his meaning, for that *God* only was *good:* he should have replied in the words of *St. Thomas*—"My Lord, and my GOD;" which would have been a nobler instance of faith, and have cleared up the whole difficulty. If the case be considered, this man was a very proper subject for such a trial. Fully convinced of his own sufficiency, he comes to Christ in the presence of his disciples, to know what *good thing* he might do to merit everlasting life. Whence our Saviour takes occasion to correct his mistake as to the nature of *goodness;* and having tried this *good* and *perfect* man in a tender point, sent him away grievously dissatisfied.

a Matth. xxii. 43. b Psalm xiv. 3.

XXV.

† 1 Cor. xv. 24. Then cometh the END, when HE shall deliver up the KINGDOM to GOD EVEN the FATHER.

Luke i. 33. HE (*Jesus*) shall reign over the house of *Jacob* for ever; and of HIS KINGDOM there shall be NO END.

This of *St. Luke*, being a contradiction in terms to that of the *apostle*, shews the former to be spoken *only* of *Christ's humanity*; as the latter relates only to his *divinity*. When both are laid together, it is evident to a demonstration, that *Christ* is *perfect God*, as well as *perfect man*. As *man*, he *received* a *kingdom*, which again, as *man*, he shall *deliver up*, when his mediatorial office, for which he took the nature of man, shall be at an *end*. But there is a *kingdom* pertaining to him, which shall have *no end*. And this cannot be true, unless he is a *person* in that *God*, who after the *humanity* has *delivered up the kingdom* shall be *all in all*. The distinction in this case between the *God* and *man* in the *joint person* of *Christ Jesus* is warranted by another part of the chapter, wherein the *apostle* has given us a key to his own meaning. *Since by* MAN (says he) *came death, by* MAN *came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in* Adam *all die, even so in* Christ *shall all be made alive.* Here, it is evident, he is drawing a contrast between the *man Adam* and the *man Christ*; so that unless it be done on purpose,

no reader can easily mistake the meaning of what follows.—*Then cometh the end, when* HE (that is the *man Christ*, the second *Adam*) *shall deliver up the kingdom*, &c. for so it must be, according to the tenor of the apostle's discourse.

The *New Testament* abounds with expressions of this nature; but they have no difficulty in them, if it only be remembered that Christ is *man* as well as *God*; which the *Arians* are willing upon all occasions to forget. And it has been chiefly owing to an abuse of these texts that they have been able to put any tolerable gloss upon their heresy. The *Old Testament* seldom speaking of *Christ*, but as a person of the godhead *before* his incarnation, does not afford them so many opportunities: and hence it is, that most of them confine their inquiries to the *new*, which is the history of him *after* his incarnation, when he appeared as *the first-born of many* brethren,[a] *anointed above his* fellows (*mankind*) receiving authority and dominion from *God*, who by a power superior to that of his human soul and body, put *all things in subjection* under the *feet* of it.

But some, for whose sakes he thus humbled himself, and became obedient in the flesh, instead of receiving it with humility and devotion, even cast it in his teeth, and make it an argument *against* him: vainly imagining that they do honor to their supreme God, while they say with *Peter*—Lord, *be it far from thee: this shall not*, it cannot *be unto* thee. And it is worth their while to consider, whether they may not fall

[a] Rom. viii. 29.

under the same rebuke, when it will be too late to retract and change their opinion.

A solemn advocate of theirs, whom I take to be a *dissenter*, tells us—his *present concern is with the* New Testament *only*.[a] And another writer of some figure, who, you are to suppose, is addressing himself to a *young clergyman*, puts it into his head, that he "*may reject* arguments *brought from the* Old Testament *to prove the* trinity *as* trifling, *and proving nothing but the* ignorance *of those that make use of them*."[b] And I could wish *that* were all: for I had much rather be accounted a *fool* in *their* judgment, than find myself under a necessity of charging them with the horrible guilt, of *denying the* Lord *that hath bought them*.

XXVI.

† Acts x. 42. That it is HE, which is ORDAINED of GOD to be the *judge* of quick and dead.

This passage will help us to detect, once for all, that common fallacy of our adversaries, in misapplying such words as relate only to the *human* nature of *Christ*, and erecting arguments thereupon to the degrading of his supreme essence. *Christ* is *ordained* of *God*, it is true: and the nature that *receives* power, must be *inferior* to the nature that *confers* it. But is his *godhead* therefore *ordained?* They tell you it is;

a A Sequel to the Essay on Spirit, p. 8.

b *Letter* to a *young clergyman* upon the *difficulties* and *discouragements* which attend the *study* of the *scriptures* in the way of *private judgment*.

and their scheme requires it: but the *scriptures* declare the contrary—GOD (saith *St. Paul*) *hath appointed a day wherein* HE *will* JUDGE *the world in righteousness by that* MAN ἐν ἀνδρὶ, (IN *that* MAN) *whom he hath* ORDAINED.[a] The supreme God that was *manifest in the flesh*, and IN *Christ reconciling the world to* HIMSELF, shall remain in the same personal union with him, till he has *judged* the world, and is ready to *deliver up the kingdom*. And though our *judge* shall even then retain the character of a *man*, yet as *God* who *ordained* him, shall be present with him in the same person, the act of the last judgment is equally ascribed to both natures. In the text just above cited, it is said—*He* (God) will *judge* the world, though it immediately follows, that a *man*, even the *man Christ*, is *ordained* to this office. And so we have it again in the epistle to the *Romans—we shall all appear before the* judgment seat *of* Christ. *For it is written, as I live saith the* Lord, *every knee shall bow to* ME, *and every tongue shall confess unto* GOD.[b] We are to give an account of ourselves at the *judgment seat of* Christ. And how does the *apostle* prove it? Why, because it is written that we shall give an account of ourselves to the *Lord God*, who swears that *he liveth*. But unless *Christ*, who is a *man*, be also this *living God* and *Lord*, this proof is not to the purpose.

XXVII.

† Acts x. 40. Him GOD raised up, and SHEWED HIM openly to us who did eat

a Acts xvii. 31. b Isa. xlv. 23.

and drink with him *after he rose from the dead.*

John xxi. 1. After these things JESUS SHEWED HIMSELF again to his *disciples* at the sea of *Tiberias;* and on this wise SHEWED HE HIMSELF.

The former text takes something from *Christ,* as *man;* in which capacity he was at the *disposal of the Father.* But the latter restores it to him again as *God;* under which character he is at his *own disposal,* and in unity with the Father. The same is to be said of the two articles which follow.

XXVIII.

† John iii. 16. GOD SO LOVED the world, that HE GAVE his only begotten Son.

Eph. v. 25. CHRIST also LOVED the church, and GAVE HIMSELF for it.

XXIX.

† Eph. iv. 32. *Forgiving one another,* even as GOD, for CHRIST'S SAKE, hath FORGIVEN *you.*

Col. iii. 13. *Forgiving one another*—even as CHRIST FORGAVE *you.*

XXX.

† John vi. 38. I came down from heaven, NOT to do MY OWN WILL, but the WILL of HIM that SENT ME.

Matth. viii. 2. And behold there came a leper and *worshipped* him, saying, LORD if THOU WILT thou canst make me clean. And JESUS said, (Θελω) I WILL, be thou clean.

XXXI.

† Acts xiv. 29, 30. And now, LORD—— grant—that *signs* and *wonders* may be *done* by the NAME of THY HOLY CHILD JESUS.

It seems here, that *signs* and *wonders* were not to be wrought by *Jesus Christ*, as the *author* of them; but by an higher power of the LORD, put into action by the *name*, merits, or intercession of the *holy child Jesus*. Yet *St. Peter* makes this same *Jesus*, though in *heaven*, the immediate author of the *signs* and *wonders* wrought by his disciples upon earth. "Eneas (says he) JESUS CHRIST *maketh thee whole*." Acts ix. 34.

XXXII.

† **Matth. xx. 23. To SIT on my right hand and on my left, is NOT MINE TO GIVE, but (*it shall be given*) to them for whom it is prepared of my FATHER.**

Yet our blessed Saviour has promised elsewhere, to bestow this reward in his *own right*—"*To him that overcometh, will I* GRANT *to* SIT *with me in* MY THRONE." Rev. iii. 21. This is sufficient to rescue the text from any heretical use that may have been made of it. But still there remains some difficulty, which with God's help, I shall endeavor to clear up. It will appear to any person, not ignorant of *Greek*, that the original in this place does reserve to *Christ* that act of power and authority, of which the *English* version, by inserting a few words, seems to have divested him. The *Greek* is this—*οκ εστιν εμον δουναι—it is not mine to give, αλλ' οις ητοιμασται, but to them for whom it is prepared*—"nisi quibus paratum est." For in the eleventh verse of the foregoing chapter, there is an expression exactly parallel—*αλλ' οις δεδοται—save they to whom it is given;* or as *Beza* hath it—"sed *ii* quibus datum." Now there can be no grammatical reason why we should not take—*αλλ' οις ητοιμασται*—in the same manner, and then the text will *affirm* what it now seems to *deny*. For to say, that *Christ* cannot give any particular reward, *save to them for whom it is prepared of his Father*, is the same as to say, that to

such he *can* and *will give it;* according to the common maxim—*Exceptio* probat *regulam in non-exceptis.*

The scope of the text therefore, is to shew, that nothing can be granted even by almighty power itself, where there is not a suitable merit or disposition in the persons who claim it. "God shall give this honorable place to those, for whom it is prepared by an invariable rule of justice; whose *victory* of faith being foreknown and accepted, a seat is allotted them according to it." And the two passages being laid together, supply us with this principle. As if our *Saviour*, who is the *speaker* in *both* places, had said—"Though it be *not mine to give;* yet to him that *overcometh*, will *I* (even *I myself*) *grant* to *sit* with me in *my throne;* because for *him* this seat is *prepared.*" It is not owing to a defect of power in the trinity, or in any person of it, that the divine purpose cannot be changed; but because it is impossible for the power of God to break in upon the order of his distributive justice. And it is upon this account only, that we read of *Christ*, Mark vi. 5. "*He* COULD *there do* NO *mighty work.*" For the *power* of doing a miracle was always present with him; but the *place* being *improper*, because of their *unbelief*, made the thing impossible. In the same manner, that declaration of the *Lord* in Gen. xvii. 22. is to be accounted for,—*Haste thee, escape thither, for* I CANNOT *do any thing till thou be come thither.* No man would hence conclude that the hand of God is straightened, or his power limited; but only that he does, and by his own

nature *must* act agreeable to the disposition of things and persons, known to himself.

XXXIII.

† 1 Cor. viii. 6. To us there is but ONE GOD, THE FATHER.

If we compare this with that expression of *St. Thomas*.—John xx. 28—MY LORD, *and* MY GOD, we have the following argument:

To us there is but one GOD, the FATHER.

But TO US JESUS CHRIST IS GOD: therefore, the gospel has either preached *two Gods to us*, one *distinct* from the other: or that *one God the Father* is here the name of a *nature*, under which *Christ* himself, as *God*, is also comprehended. And the same may be proved of it in several other places.

XXXIV.

† Matth. xxiii. 9. Call no man your Father upon earth, for ONE IS YOUR FATHER, *which is in heaven.*

Ibid. v. 10. Neither be ye called masters, for ONE IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST. John iii. 13. *which is in heaven.*

Dr. *Clarke* has a particular section,[a] wherein he pretends to have set down the *passages that ascribe the*

[a] Chap. ii. §. 3.

highest titles, perfections, and powers, to the second person of the trinity. Yet he has wholly omitted the latter of these verses; though by a rule of his own making, it allows to *Christ* an higher title than any other in the whole scripture. It is this same author who has laid so great a stress upon the word εἷς, *one,* which he has insisted upon it can signify nothing else but *one person;* and the criticism is thought to be of such use and importance to his scheme, that his book *begins* with it; and in the course of his work it is repeated three times, nearly in the same words. But the passage now before us, if he had produced it; would have turned his own weapon against himself. For the word εἷς is here an attribute of *Christ;* and if we argue from it in this place, as he has done in the other, it must prove that *one person* only is our *master,* and that this person is *Christ:* which excludes the persons of the *Father* and the *Spirit* from the honor of that title; and so reduces that learned author's reasoning to a manifest absurdity.

We are to conclude then, that as the phrase, *one master* cannot be meant to exclude the *Father;* so neither does that other—*one is good* (supposing that were the sense of the *Greek*) or, *one is your Father,* exclude the person of *Christ.* And if the reason of the thing teaches us that it *cannot,* so the *scripture* assures us in fact that it *does not:* the title of *Father,* being also ascribed to the second person of the trinity. For *Christ,* the *alpha* and *omega,* says of himself—*He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be* HIS

GOD, *and he shall be* MY SON.[a] *Isaiah* calls him —*The everlasting* FATHER.[b] And again it is written—*They are the* CHILDREN *of* GOD, *being the children of the* RESURRECTION:[c] but, says *Christ* —*I am the* RESURRECTION:[d] therefore he is *God*, and hath *us* for *his* children. If this be the case, the word *Father* cannot always be a name that distinguishes *God* from *another person of God:* but is often to be understood as a term of *relation* between *God* and *man:* or as a modern divine of our church has well expressed it—"A word not intended for *God the Father* only, the *first person* of the trinity; but as it is referred unto the *creature* made and conserved by *God;* in which sense it appertains to the *whole trinity.*"

XXXV.

† John xiv. 28. MY FATHER is GREATER than I.

The two preceding articles will sufficiently justify what the church has asserted with a view to this passage—That *Christ* is "*inferior to the* Father *as touching his* manhood." And the stream of the whole scripture is against that use the *Arians* generally make of it; who stand in need to be reminded at every turn, that in the person of *Christ*, there is a *human* soul and body, the nature of a *man*, which as it cannot lay claim to what is spoken of *Christ* in unity *with the Father*, so must it receive to its own account whatever

a Rev. xxi. 7. b ix. 6. c Luke xx. 36. d John xi. 25.

seems to degrade and disjoin him *from the Father.* It is indeed hard to say, which of the two heresies is the most unreasonable and unscriptural; that of the *Socinians*, which never considers *Christ* as any thing but a *mere man*; or that of the *Arians*, who never look upon him as any thing but a *suppositious God.* Between these two gross errors, lies the true catholic faith; which as it allows him to be *perfect God* and *perfect man*, is never offended, or put to its shifts, by any thing the scripture may have said about him in either capacity.

XXXVI.

† 1 Cor. xi. 3. The HEAD of *Christ* is GOD.

The name *Christ* does here stand, as in other places out of number, for the *man* Christ; otherwise it must follow, that as Christ is *God*, God is the head of *himself;* which is a contradiction; or that *one* God is the *head* of *another* God; which also is a contradiction.

This Text is capable of a good illustration from *Gen.* iii. 15. where we read, that the *heel* of the promised seed should be *bruised:* by which, the Church has always understood the sufferings of his *human* nature, metaphorically represented by the *inferior* part in man. So in this place, his *divinity* or *superior nature* is as aptly signified by the *head* or *superior* part of the human body.

XXXVII.

† **Mark xiii. 32. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels which are in heaven, neither THE SON, but the FATHER.**

It is declared of *Christ* in another place, that he *increased in wisdom:*[a] why should it be incredible then, that during the whole term of his humiliation in the flesh, something should still be left, which as man upon earth he did not know? If you suppose him to be ignorant of this matter *as God*, how is it that St. *Peter* confesses him to be omniscient, without receiving any rebuke for it, or being reminded of any particular exception?——LORD, *thou knowest* ALL THINGS.[b]

XXXVIII.

† **John i. 18. No man hath SEEN GOD at any time.**

***Ibid.* xiv. 8, 9. *Philip* saith unto him, Lord SHEW US THE FATHER—hast thou not SEEN ME, Philip? he that hath *seen* ME hath *seen* THE FATHER.**

a Luke ii. 52. b John xxi. 17.

"These words (says Dr. *Clarke*) do not signify, that he who hath seen the *person of Christ* hath seen the *person of the Father*." No surely; but that he who hath seen all that was visible of Christ, hath seen the person, to whom was joined that invisible and divine *nature*, which the scripture has called by the name of *the Father*. And to shew that *Christ* (though he was *God* manifest *in the flesh*)[a] is yet no other than the same *invisible God*, whom no man hath or can *see* and *live*, we are told, that "*when he shall appear* (glorified, not with any *secondary* divinity, but with the FATHER'S OWNSELF[b]) *we shall be* like *him (fashioned* like *unto his own glorious body*,[c] and *conformed to* his *image*)[d] *for we shall* SEE *him* AS HE IS;" which no man ever yet hath done.

XXXIX.

† 1 Cor. xv. 27. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that HE IS EXCEPTED (εκτος τ υποταξαντος) *which did put all things under him.* And when *all things* shall be SUBDUED (υποταγη) UNTO HIM—

Phil. iii. 20, 21. We look for THE SAVIOUR, the *Lord* JESUS CHRIST—who—IS ABLE even to SUBDUE ALL THINGS (υποταξαι τα παντα) TO HIMSELF.

a 1 Tim. iii. 16. b John xvii. 5. c Phil. iii. 21. d Rom. viii. 29.

It is manifest, therefore, that the *exception* in the former text, is not meant to set *one person of God* above *another person of God;* but only to distinguish the power of the *divine nature* from that of the *human* in its greatest *exaltation*. As *Christ* is *man*, *all things* are *subdued* unto him by ANOTHER; as *Christ* is *God*, he himself is that *other*, and *able* to *subdue all things* to HIMSELF. And this will be sufficient to confirm the reader in what I have already observed, that the cause of *Arianism* borrows its chief support from the *humiliation* of Christ *in the flesh*. Search the very best of their arguments to the bottom, by a diligent *comparing* of the scripture *with itself*, and they all amount to this great absurdity.—*Man* is *inferior* to *God;* therefore *God* is *inferior* to *himself:* and this they prove, by *imputing* to Christ's *divinity* what is said *only* of his *humanity*.

I have now presented to the reader's consideration the most noted texts, which, under the management of *Arian* or *Socinian* expositors, may seem to have favored their doctrine. Many, I hope, will be of opinion, that the catholic cause is rather beholden to them, particularly in this last instance, for the opposition they have made against it; inasmuch as the objections they have drawn from the holy scriptures have directed us to some very clear proofs, which might otherwise have escaped our notice. If there be any other texts more for their purpose than what I have here set down, they have my free consent to produce and enlarge upon them as much as they please. In the mean time I shall proceed to give the reader some

farther satisfaction, and endeavour to convince him, with the blessing of God, that while *heresy* is obliged to glean up a few scattered passages, hard to be understood, and for that reason, easy to be wrested by men of perverse inclinations: the faith of the church has the suffrage of the whole Bible, speaking in such words, as need not be refined upon by any metaphysical expositions, but only applied and considered.

XL.

Jude 4. Denying the ONLY LORD GOD, and OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST—τον μονον δεσποτην θεον και Κυριον ημων Ιησουν Χριστον.

As there is no article before Κυριον the first and second comma are both meant of the same person; and the plain sense, when freed from the ambiguity of the English version, is this—*Denying the only Lord God and our Lord*, Jesus Christ. This literal sense of the Greek may be supported by the parallel Greek of *Phil.* iv. 20. Τω δε θεω και πατρι ημων. There being here no article before πατρι, it would be violent and unnatural, to refer θεος to one person and πατρι, to another: when *Grotius* paraphrases the expression by *Deo qui IDEM est Pater noster;* and thus may the other be rendered with equal strictness and propriety—δεσποτην *qui idem est* Κυριον ημων: and though we do not rest the proof of the trinity on any single passage, yet is the more natural construction of this text very strong and conclusive for it.

If this should be denied, I think the *sense* also is capable of demonstration. The words include this proposition—there is, ο μονος ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ, *one supreme governor*:[a] now if this term be applied to *Christ*, it must follow that HE is that *one supreme governor*, in the unity of *the Father*. But *it* is applied to him in the parallel place of 2 *Pet.* ii. 1. *Denying* (ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΝ) *the* Lord *that hath* bought *them*—τον αγορασαντα αυτους. And if it should be doubted, whether this latter text be meant of *Christ*, it is demonstrated by another—THOU *wast slain, and hast* BOUGHT *us* (ηγορασας) *unto God by thy blood.*[b] If this chain of reasoning be inverted, the force of it will be clear and undeniable. 1. *Christ* hath *bought* us. 2. He that hath *bought* us, is ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ, *the Lord*, or *supreme governor*. But 3dly, there is, ο μονος ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ, *one only supreme governor*. Therefore, *Christ* is *he*.

XLI.

Jude 24, 25. Unto HIM that is able—to PRESENT you faultless before the PRESENCE of HIS GLORY—to the ONLY WISE GOD our SAVIOUR.

Eph. v. 27. That HE (*Christ*) might PRESENT it to HIMSELF a *glorious* church, &c.

a So Dr. Clarke has construed it. C. i. §. 3. 411. b Rev. v. 9.

It is the *only wise God*, who is *able* to *present* us before the *presence of his* glory: but *Christ* is to *present* us, as members of the *church* in *glory*, to *himself*: therefore *he* is the *only wise God*, to whom also appertains the *presence of glory*; for that is no other than his *own presence, himself.*

This is another express instance, that μονος θεος, the *only God*, is not God in *one person*, but the *unity of the trinity*. For if you confine this phrase, with the *Arians*, to the *single person* of *the Father*, then of course you exclude the *person* of *Christ*, and then, it is manifest, you contradict the scripture. For though it be affirmed in this place, that the *only wise God* is to *present* us before his *own presence*, yet the same is elsewhere expressed by *Christ presenting us to himself*. Which is no way to be accounted for, unless you believe *Christ* to be a partaker in the *being*, attributes, and offices of the one, undivided, *only wise God, our Saviour*. Then there is no farther difficulty.

XLII.

Eph. iii. 2, 3. The dispensation of the grace of GOD, which is given me to youward: how that BY REVELATION HE (*God*) made known unto me the mystery.

Gal. i. 12. I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but BY THE REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST.

XLIII.

1 Kings viii. 39. THOU, even THOU ONLY KNOWEST the HEARTS of all the children of men.

This, it seems, is the privilege of *God* ONLY: but this *God* is *Christ*; for, says he,

Rev. ii. 23. All the churches shall know that I am HE which *searcheth* the reins and HEARTS.

Indeed this latter verse speaks plain enough for itself without being compared with the former. It implies, that there is *one only* who *searcheth* the *hearts* of men, and that *Christ* is *he*. And the Greek will very well bear it; as the learned reader will easily perceive. It is thus—εγω ειμι ο ερευνων—There is ὁ ερευνων, *one that searcheth*; but—εγω ειμι—*I am he*.

XLIV.

2 Pet. i. 4. *Exceeding great* and precious *promises*, that by these you might be (θειας κοινωνοι φυσεως) PARTAKERS of the DIVINE NATURE.

Heb. iii. 14. For we are made (μετοχοι του Χριστου) PARTAKERS of CHRIST, if we hold the beginning of our confidence (in the

precious promises of God) steadfast unto the end.

What St. *Peter* proposes, as the end of our hope in the *promises*, is to be *partakers of the divine nature*; but this, according to St. *Paul*, is to be *partakers of Christ*; therefore Christ is *in* or *of* the *divine nature*; the same *almighty God*[a] and *Lord*, who declared to *Abraham—I am thy shield, and thy* EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD.[b] So that these being compared together, are decisive for the catholic *homoousian* doctrine, at which the *Arians*, from the council of *Nice* to this very day, have been so grievously offended. And it has not been without reason. For if the word *consubstantial* be applicable to the person of *Christ*, it makes short work with their *heresy*. To this end, it was fixed upon and agreed to by the bishops of the whole Christian world,* as the most proper bar and badge of distinction between the *Arians* and themselves. But they object that the term is *not*

a Gen. xvii. 1. b xv. 1.

* I say, of the *whole Christian world*: though a late author calls this *Oecumenical council*, summoned for the condemnation of *Arius*, "a *famous contest*;" as if one half of the world had been divided against the other. And he says, it was "determined by a *majority* of *near twenty to one*;" whereas, in truth, there were but *five* out of *three hundred and eighteen*, who denied the *catholic faith*. I mention this, to shew how some things may be *represented* by some sort of people, who if they are not *ignorant* must think it their *interest* to *impose* upon you. What would you think of a man, who having been present at an *assize*, should bring a report of it home to his family, and tell them he had been at a *famous contest*, where there was a *majority* of *near ten* jury-men, six witnesses, and a judge against the *criminal*? See *Ded.* to an *Essay on Spirit*, p. 9, 10.

scriptural; nay, there are some of no ordinary figure amongst them, who have not stuck to call it an invention of *popery*;[a] though it is well known, that at the time this was adopted by the church, there was no such thing as *popery* in the world. But the *name* is found to be of great use in amusing weak people, who have no ready stock of learning to contradict them, and, in some cases I fear, no good desire of being better informed. Who can think it a notable proof of their *zeal* as *Protestants*, that they take a pleasure in seeing their poor mother, the *Episcopal* church of *England*, the honor of the reformation, and the dread of *popery*, painted and dressed up for a *Jezebel*, by men *of her own household*: who have shipwrecked their consciences by subscribing articles they never believed, and are growing fat upon the provision allotted by the providence of God, only to support the church in her journey through this world to the kingdom of heaven. A sight that would raise the indignation of a *Mahometan*! and almost move a *Papist* himself to pity and pray for us!

But I would hope there are some few among the favorers of *Arianism* who are not gone quite so far out of the way, and would be ashamed of such low and base artifices, as can only serve to expose and discredit their cause with any man of common learning and honesty. To these I address myself: and now the *scripture* is before us, let me ask them a plain question or two. Is not the word *essence* or *substance*

[a] *Essay on Spirit*. p. 151.

of the same signification with the word *nature?* and have not the fathers of the church thus expounded it? and is not this phrase—*of the same nature*—as conclusive for the *divinity* of *Christ*, as that other—*of the same substance?* why then should that expression of the *Nicene* creed be thought so offensive, when there is another in *scripture* so near of kin to it, that the *Arians* must be sensible they could gain nothing by the exchange? For the *divine nature*, we all agree, can be but *one; three divine natures* of course making *three* different *Gods*. But the *scripture*, compared as above, has asserted *Christ* to be *of this divine nature*. And if people were once persuaded of that, all farther disputes about the word *consubstantial* would be at an end. But peace and unity for *Christ's* sake, is a blessing of which God has deprived this church for the punishment of its sins: and as we do not seem to be in any posture of repentance, it is to be feared he will never restore it to us again in this world; but suffer us to go on from bad to worse, till the measure is filled up.

XLV.

It is a rule, laid down by St. *Paul*, that GOD *swears by* HIMSELF, for this reason, *because he can swear by* NO GREATER. Heb. vi. 13.

But *Christ* has *sworn* by *himself:*

Isa. xlv. 23. I have *sworn* by MYSELF—that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Which words being compared with Rom. xiv. 10, 11. are proved to be the words of *Christ.—We shall stand before the judgment-seat of* Christ: *for it is written, as* I *live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess unto God.*

Christ, therefore, has *sworn* by HIMSELF: so that if the apostle's rule be applied, he must for this reason be GOD, and there can be NO GREATER.

XLVI.

Eph. iv. 8. When HE (*Christ*) ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Yet the scripture here referred to, expressly affirms the person who *ascended*, &c. to be the *Lord God.*

Psalm lxviii. 17, 18. The chariots of GOD are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the LORD is among them, as in *Sinai*, in the holy place. THOU *hast ascended on high*, THOU *hast led captivity captive*, &c.

XLVII.

Heb. ix. 20. This is the blood of the TESTAMENT which GOD hath *enjoined unto you.*

Ibid. v. 16. Where a TESTAMENT is, there must also of necessity be the DEATH of the TESTATOR.

God is a *testator:* but, argues the *apostle*, every *testator* must *die*, before the last will or *testament enjoined* by him, can be *of force*. Therefore, if you keep close to the terms, the natural conclusion is, that GOD being a *testator*, should *die*, to make way for the *execution* of his *testament*. But it being impossible that the divine nature of *God* should be capable of *death;* it follows, that the *person* who *was* capable of death, and did *die* as a *man*, was also *God* the *testator*. And it is to express the strict and perfect union of the *two natures* in the *single person* of *Christ*, that what is true only of *one*, is predicated of *both*. Of this, two more examples shall be added in the articles that immediately follow.

XLVIII.

Rev. v. 9. Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to GOD by THY BLOOD.

A distinction is here observed between the two natures of *Christ:* and the act of *redeeming* us by the *shedding* of his *blood* is ascribed to the *lamb*, the *Messiah's* humanity. But in another place it is imputed to his *divinity—Feed the church of* GOD, *which he hath purchased with* HIS OWN BLOOD:[a] not *that God*,

a Acts xx. 28.

strictly speaking, has any *blood* of *his own* to shed; but that he who shed his blood for us, *as man*, was *God* as well as man: or, in other words, that *God* and *man* were *united in the same person;* something being predicated of *God*, which cannot possibly be true without such an union. So again—

XLIX.

Zech. xii. 4. In that day saith THE LORD —v. 10.—they shall look on ME whom they have PIERCED.

But, according to the evangelist St. *John*, this *scripture saith*,

John xix. 47. They shall look on HIM (*Christ*) whom they have PIERCED.

As it stands in the prophet, the *Lord* (*Jehovah*) was to be *pierced*. So that unless the man Christ, who hung upon the cross, was also the *Lord Jehovah*, the evangelist is found to be a false witness, in applying to him a prophecy that could not possibly *be fulfilled* in him.

L.

Phil. i. 10 That ye may be sincere and without offence, till the DAY of CHRIST.

2 Pet. iii. 12. Looking for and hasting to the coming of the DAY of GOD,

LI.

Isa. xl. 10. *Behold,* the LORD GOD will COME—HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM.

Rev. xxii. 12. *Behold,* I (*Jesus*) COME quickly, and MY REWARD IS WITH ME.

CHAPTER II.

THE

DIVINITY

OF

THE HOLY GHOST.

I.

John iii. 6. Το γεγεννημενον ΕΚ τ̃ Πνευματ@—That which is BORN OF the SPIRIT.

1 John v. 4. Το γεγεννημενον ΕΚ τ̃ Θε̃—whatsoever is BORN OF GOD.

The same individual act of divine grace, *viz.* that of our spiritual birth, is ascribed, without the change of a single letter, to *God*, and to the *Spirit*. Some *capacity* then there must be, wherein the *scripture* makes no *distinction* between *God* and the *Spirit*:—and this is what the scripture itself calls the *divine nature*; under which *God* and the *Spirit* are both *equally comprehended*.

II.

Acts. xiii. 2. The HOLY GHOST said, separate ME *Barnabas* and *Saul* for the work whereunto I HAVE CALLED them.

Heb. v. 4. No man taketh this honor to himself, but he that is CALLED of GOD.

The shorter way is to ask this same *Saul, who* it was that appointed *him* to the *work of the ministry?* and his answer is no other than this—*Paul* CALLED to be an *apostle*, SEPARATED unto the *gospel*—by the *commandment* of GOD OUR SAVIOUR.[a]

III.

Matth. ix. 38. PRAY YE therefore the LORD OF THE HARVEST, that HE will SEND FORTH *Laborers* into his harvest.

Acts xiii. 4. So they being SENT FORTH BY THE HOLY GHOST.

In this act of *sending forth laborers* upon the *work* of the gospel, the *Holy Ghost* is proved to the *Lord of the harvest*, to whom *Christ* himself has directed us to PRAY. Wherefore, they are not to be heard, who advise us to alter the *third petition* in the *litany*; a *work*, to which I am sure the *Holy Ghost* hath not

a Rom. i. 1. and 1 Tim. i. 1.

called us, and such as will never be consented to by any laborers of *his* sending.

IV.

Luke ii. 16. And it was revealed unto him (υπο[a]) BY the HOLY GHOST, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Ibid. v. 28. And he BLESSED GOD, and said, LORD now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to THY WORD.

This *word* was the *word* of the *Holy Ghost;* who therefore is entitled to the context, and is *God* and *Lord* to be *blessed* or *praised;* not under any imaginary restrictions and limitations, according to a certain degree of power delegated to him, an evasion you will meet with in some modern writers, but the scripture, and common reason, instructed by the scripture, disclaim and abhor it, as an inlet to all sorts of *idolatry.*

V.

John xiv. 17. HE (*the* SPIRIT *of truth*) dwelleth with you and shall be IN YOU.

a I set down the *preposition*, because it slays the *Arian* with his own weapon. It shews the prime *agency* and *authority* in this affair to have been that of the *Holy Ghost*, acting in his own right, and not as the *minister* or *instrument* of an higher power; for then, according to them, it should have been δια. For my own part, I lay no stress upon it; because I perceive, upon a review of the scripture, that these two prepositions are used indiscriminately.

1 Cor. xiv. 25. GOD is IN YOU of a truth.

VI.

2 Tim. iii. 16. All scripture is given by INSPIRATION of GOD.

2 Pet. i. 21. Holy men of God spake as they were MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST.

VII.

John vi. 45. It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all TAUGHT of GOD.

1 Cor. ii. 13. Not in the words which *man's* wisdom teacheth, *but* which the HOLY GHOST TEACHETH.

This latter verse would prove the *Holy Ghost* to be *God* by itself: for I cannot find that *man*, in the style of the scripture, is ever *opposed* in this manner to any *being* but *God* only. I will subjoin a few examples of it.

John i. 13. *Nor of the will of* man, but of God.

1 Thes. iv. 8. *He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not* man *but* God.

Rom. i. 29. *Whose praise is not of* men, *but of* God.

VIII.

Acts. v. 3. Why hath *Satan* filled thine heart to LYE to the HOLY GHOST.

Ibid. v. 4. Thou hast not LYED unto *men*, but unto GOD.

Dr. *Clarke* affirms, that "the person of the *Holy Ghost* is no where in scripture expressly styled *God*." And then adds by way of authority—"see the text, No. 66."[a] And what *text* would you suppose this to be? why, it is no other than that of Acts v. 4, where he IS *expressly styled God*. The *doctor* refers us to it, because he has added a long perplexed comment to help us to *understand* it, I suppose; though a child may see the force of it without any comment at all. The substance of all he has said may be reduced to this—"*Ananias* lyed to *God*, because he lyed to the apostles, in whom *God dwelt* by his *Spirit*." Thus has he tried to evade it; even by producing *one* proof of the *Holy Ghost's divinity*, as an answer to *another*. For if the scripture assures us that *God dwelleth* in us, and our only argument for it, is, because the *Spirit dwelleth* in us; who can the *Spirit* be, but *God himself?* as it is proved in the following article. But before we proceed to it, I must beg the reader to observe how he has used and represented *Athanasius's* opinion upon this text. "*Athanasius* himself (says the doctor)[b] explains this text in the *same manner: he that lyed* (saith he) *to the Holy Ghost, lyed to* GOD, WHO *dwelleth in men by his Spirit. For where*[c] *the* Spirit *of God is, there is* GOD." The difference, then, between this author and St. *Athanasius*, is no

a Part II. §. xxxii. b No. 66.

c Οπου γαρ εστι το Πνευμα του Θεου, εκει εστιν ο ΘΕΟΣ.

more than this: the former takes occasion to *deny* that the *Holy Ghost* is GOD, the latter to *prove* it, and both from one and the same text; which, if you believe the *doctor*, they have explained *in the same manner*.

IX.

1 John iii. 21. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward GOD.

Ibid. v. 24. And *hereby* we know that HE abideth in us, by THE SPIRIT which he hath given us.

The apostle's reasoning is this—"*The Spirit* abideth in us; and *hereby* we know that *he* (*God*) abideth *in* us." But unless the *Spirit* be a *person* in the *unity of God*, the conclusion is manifestly false.

X.

1 Cor. iii. 16. The TEMPLE of GOD is holy, which temple are YE.

1 Cor. vi. 19. Know ye not, that YOUR BODIES are the TEMPLE of the HOLY GHOST.

XI.

Matt. iv. 1. Then was *Jesus* LED up (υπο) BY THE SPIRIT, to be TEMPTED, &c.

Luke xi. 2—4. OUR FATHER which art in heaven—LEAD us not into TEMPTATION.

It is not my business in this place to shew particularly in *what manner* and for *what end* God *leads us into temptation.* That it is no way inconsistent with the divine attributes, is plain from the case now before us: for *Jesus* was *led* up into the wilderness to meet his adversary and be *tempted* by him. And it is also plain from that petition in the Lord's prayer, that *our Father which is in heaven* would not *lead us into temptation:* it being needless and absurd to *pray* that God would not do, what by the necessity of his nature, it is impossible for him to do. In this case, *God* is not the *tempter:* he only introduces us to the trial; and always provides, if we have the grace and prudence to embrace it, *a way for our escaping that we may be able to bear it.*

But when *Jesus* was *tempted*, the *leading him into temptation* was the act of the *Holy Spirit*. Therefore as often as we repeat the *Lord's prayer*, we address ourselves inclusively to the *person* of the *Spirit*, under the one name of OUR FATHER; and certainly, he also is *our Father*, of whom we are *begotten* and *born*, even *of the Spirit:* and again, *as many as are* LED *by the* SPIRIT of *God, they are the* SONS *of God.* Rom. viii. 14. See Art. I. of this chapter.

XII.

2 Cor. i. 3. Blessed be GOD, even the GOD of ALL COMFORT.

If *all* spiritual comfort (sent *from heaven*) be of *God*, how is it consistent, that *the churches had rest—walking in the* COMFORT OF *the* HOLY GHOST,[a] unless the *Holy Ghost* be a person in the unity of *God*? and how can *he* be styled by way of eminence, THE *comforter*,[b] if there be a *God* distinct from him, who claims that title? for then he is not *the comforter*, but *one* of the *two:* and *two divine comforters*, like *two almighties*, would make *two Gods;* which is not a principle of Christianity, but of Heathen idolatry. And the same reasoning will hold good as to another of his titles. For the *Holy Ghost* is called, by way of eminence, THE SPIRIT,[c] i. e. the true and principal, the head and Father of all *other spirits*. Yet we are told that *God* is a *Spirit*:[d] so that unless the *Spirit* be also *God*, we must believe in *two* supreme, distinct and independent *Spirits*. And thus we justly argue for the divinity of *Christ;* that because GOD *is* LIGHT,[e] and *Christ* is the LIGHT.[f] Therefore, he is and must be *God*; even the TRUE *God*, because he is the TRUE *light*.[g]

a Acts ix. 3.
b Ὁ παράκλητος, John xiv. 26.
c 1 John v. 6.
d John iv. 24.
e 1 John i. 5.
f John i. 4. 7, 8. & viii. 12.
g Ibid. i. 9.

XIII.

1 Cor. ii. 11. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the SPIRIT of a man which is IN HIM? EVEN so the things of GOD knoweth (εδεις) none but the SPIRIT OF GOD.

The *spirit* of a *man* knows the things of a man for *this* reason, because it is *in him*. For the *same* reason, the *Spirit* of *God* knows the things of *God*, because it is *in* the *godhead*; than which nothing farther need be desired to prove the *co-essentiality* of the *Holy Ghost*.[a] If you take it otherwise, there can be no parallel between the two cases. For how strange would it be to say—the *human spirit* knows the things of a *man*, because it is *in him*; EVEN SO, the *divine Spirit* knows the things of *God*, because it is *out of him*. This text brings the matter to a short issue. The church affirms the *Spirit* to be *in God*, as a *person* of the *same divine nature:* the *Arians* deny it, and will understand him to be *out of* God; not a person of the divine nature, but one inferior to, and distinct from it. To see on which side the truth lies, a man needs no other qualification but that of *faith*, to receive the *scripture* as the infallible *word of God:* which the *Arians*, in most of their writings have freely con-

a The *scripture* uses the same *preposition* to denote the *co-essentiality* of *Christ*—John xiv. 11. *I am* (EN τω Πατρι) in *the Father*. And xiii. 32. *God shall glorify him* (EN εαυτω) In *himself*.

fessed it to be. If once they come openly to deny this, they are no longer *Arians*, but infidels of another denomination, with whom a different course is to be taken.

XIV.

1 Cor. ii. 11. The THINGS OF GOD knoweth no man.

Ibid. v. 14. But the natural man receiveth not the THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

Here again, the scripture makes no distinction, farther than that of personality, between *God*, and the *Spirit* of *God*; but renders unto *God* the *things* that are *God's*, by rendering them to the *Spirit*, who *is God*.

XV.

Deut. vi. 16. and Matt. iv. 7. Thou shalt not TEMPT the LORD thy GOD.

Acts v. 9. How is it that ye have agreed to TEMPT the SPIRIT of the LORD?

The Spirit is here substituted as the object of that particular act of disobedience, of which, according to the *law* and the *gospel*, the only object is the *Lord our God*: therefore the *Spirit* is the *Lord our God*.

Dr. *Clarke* denies that in "*any place of scripture there is any mention made of any* SIN *against the* Holy Ghost *but only of a* BLASPHEMY."[a] He that can distinguish BLASPHEMY from SIN, must be an acute reasoner; when it is of *all sins* the greatest. But is it no SIN against the *Holy Ghost* to *lye* to him, to *grieve* him,[b] or to *tempt* him? Why then did the Lord *swear* in his *wrath* against those that grieved him, if it were no SIN? And why was that commandment given in the law, *thou shalt not* tempt *the Lord thy God?* And if the *Spirit* be *tempted*, is not *the Spirit* the object *offended* by that *temptation?* This is the very thing that learned man was afraid of. He would have proved *blasphemy* to be no *sin*, lest the *Spirit* should appear to be the *object* of *sin;* for that would have proved him to be *God*, the author and giver of the *law:* and that, again, would have spoiled his *scripture doctrine:* so the short way was to *deny* it.

XVI.

Gen. vi. 3. And the LORD said, MY SPIRIT shall not *always strive with man.*

The *Spirit of the Lord* strove with the inhabitants of the old world, endeavoring to reclaim them by grace, and *waiting* long for their repentance. But this is called, 1 Pet. iii. 20. the *long-suffering* of GOD that *waited* in the days of *Noah.*

a S. D. p. 112. b Eph. iv. 30.

XVII.

Luke xi. 20. If I with the FINGER of GOD *cast out devils.*

The parallel place in St. *Matthew's* gospel has it thus:

Matt. xii. 28. If I with the SPIRIT of GOD *cast out devils.*

The *finger of God* is a metaphorical expression for the immediate *power* and *agency* of God: and to say that *devils were cast out* by the *finger of God*, is the same as to say, that they were cast out by *God himself*. But it appears from the text of St. *Matthew*, that this particular act of the *finger of God*, that is, of *God himself*, was the act of the SPIRIT; therefore, the *Spirit* is *God himself*.

XVIII.

Ezek. viii. 1—3. The HAND of the LORD GOD fell there upon me—and he (the *Lord God*) put forth the form of an hand, and *took me* by a lock of mine head, and the SPIRIT *lifted me up*, &c.

In this text, the name of the *Lord God*, and the name of the *Spirit*, do both belong to the same *person*: for though it be said that the *Spirit lifted up* the pro-

phet, yet was it no other than the *Lord God* who *put forth the form of an hand and took him:* therefore the SPIRIT is the LORD GOD.

XIX.

Acts iv. 24, 25. They lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, LORD *thou* art GOD, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that therein is. WHO *by the mouth* of thy servant DAVID has *said*, &c.

The terms LORD and GOD are here used to express the divinity of *him* who spake *by the mouth* of his servant *David.* But it *was* the *person* of the HOLY GHOST, who *spake by the mouth of* his servant *David*—for, saith St. *Peter—this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the* HOLY GHOST by the mouth *of* DAVID *spake*, &c. Therefore, the terms LORD and GOD are certainly used to *express the divinity* of the HOLY GHOST.

So again:

It was the LORD GOD of *Israel* who SPAKE by the mouth of his holy *prophets*, since *the world began.* Luke i. 68. 70.

But then, it is written—well SPAKE the HOLY GHOST by *Esaias* the *prophet*,[a] &c. Therefore the *Holy Ghost* is the LORD GOD of *Israel*,

a Acts. xxviii. 25.

XX.

Psalm cxxxix. 7, 8. Whither shall I go from THY SPIRIT? Or whither shall I go from thy *presence*? If I ascend up into heaven, THOU art there.

The psalmist, to acknowledge the omnipresence of the *Holy Ghost*, says—*whither shall I go from* thy Spirit? and by what is immediately subjoined, he shews this to be the omnipresence of *God himself*.—*If I ascend up into heaven*, THOU *art there*. So that the terms *thou*, and *thy Spirit*, are equivalent; i. e. equally conclusive for the immediate *presence* of the *divine nature itself*.

XXI.

It was said by the angel—Luke i. 32.—*He shall be great, and shall be called the* SON *of the* HIGHEST. But the reason given upon this occasion WHY Christ was called the SON OF GOD, is this, and this only, viz. because he was begotten by the *Holy Ghost*—"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the HIGHEST shall overshadow thee: THEREFORE also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of GOD." v. 35.

When *Jesus* is called *the Son of God*, we understand the *supreme* and *true God*, besides whom there is no other. The *devils* themselves allowed it, and said—

"*Jesus*, thou Son of God MOST HIGH!"[a] But the person in God, whose son Jesus is said to be in this place, is the *Holy Ghost*, by whose power (called the *power of the highest*) he was begotten of the blessed virgin, and thence *called the Son of God.*

Therefore, the *Holy Ghost* is *God*, and the *highest.*

XXII.

The prophet *Isaiah*, in his 6th chapter, tells us he saw the LORD OF HOSTS. And at ver. 8. that he heard the voice of the LORD, SAYING—*Go and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not, &c.*

Yet these very words, which the prophet declares to have been *spoken* by the *Lord*, even the *Lord of Hosts*, were spoken by the *Holy Ghost—Well* SPAKE THE HOLY GHOST, *by* Esaias *the prophet, unto our fathers*, saying, *Go unto this people and say, hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand*,[b] *&c.*

Therefore, the HOLY GHOST is the LORD OF HOSTS.

The article of the Holy Ghost's supreme and absolute divinity being now established in the plainest terms; I shall proceed to answer, from the scripture, the objections usually made against it from thence.

XXIII.

† Matt. xix. 17. There is none GOOD but one, that is, GOD.

a Luke viii. 28. b Acts xxviii. 26, 27.

If this be a good objection to the divinity of *Christ*, it must be equally strong against that of the Holy Ghost, for it is argued from this passage, that the attribute of *goodness* is confined to the *single person* of God the Father; who therefore is a being superior to, and different from *Christ* and the *Holy Ghost*. The error of this argument has been fully shewn above: for it is not *one person*, but *one God*, whom the scripture has asserted to be *good;* and I now have an opportunity of confirming it, and of proving withal, that in the unity of this one God, besides whom no other is *good*, the person of the Holy Ghost is, and must be included. For it is written—*Thy* SPIRIT is GOOD[a] —so that if the same inspired scripture which declares the person of the *Spirit* to be *good*, does also as plainly declare that *none* is *good*, but *God only;* then the Spirit is God, even the only true and supreme God; and we are as well assured of it, as if it had been said, "there is none good but one, that is the *Spirit*, who is one with God." The Hebrew in this place is yet stronger than the English. It is not טוב *good*, but טובה *goodness itself*, that is, divine, essential, uncommunicated goodness, besides which there neither is nor can be any other of the like kind. There is one sort of goodness communicated to men upon earth; as we read, Psalm cxii. 5. *the* good *man sheweth* favor, &c.—and Acts ii. 24. that *Barnabas was a* good *man, and full of faith*, &c. There is another sort of goodness to be found only in heaven, and that

[a] Psalm cxliii. 10.

is the goodness of God, which is essential; but this goodness is also an attribute of the *Spirit;* who therefore is proved to be *very God;* and by that argument too, for the sake of which, some have *denied* him to be God.

XXIV.

† Matt. iii. 16. The *Spirit* OF God.

The Spirit, say they, is not *God*, because he is only the Spirit *of* God. But so likewise the *human spirit*, whence the apostle has taugnt us to borrow an idea of the *divine*, is the spirit OF *a man;* yet, was it ever pretended, that the *Spirit*, for this reason, is *one* being, and the *man* another? No, certainly: and the same must be true of *God*, and the Spirit *of* God; as far as the being of the *same man*, who is *one* person, can be an image of the *same God*, who is *three* persons. But there is the plainest testimony of scripture, that the Spirit, though said to be the *Spirit* OF *Jehovah*, is also called by the express name of *Jehovah* himself. For it is written, Judg. xv. 14. that the *Spirit* OF *Jehovah* CAME upon *Samson.* Yet at chap. xvi. 20. it is said, that *Jehovah* himself DEPARTED *from him.* Till it can be shewn, then, that the person who *came* upon him was *one*, and the person who *departed from him* was *another;* it is undeniable, that the *Spirit*, though said to be OF *Jehovah*, is strictly and properly *Jehovah himself.*

Mathilda F. S. Watts

XXV.

† **Heb. ii. 4. God also bearing them witness with—*gifts* of the *Holy Ghost* according to his own will.**

Hence it is objected, that the *Holy Ghost* is subservient and subordinate to the will of *another;* therefore he cannot be the supreme and true God. But if this *own will* of *God* should prove to be no other than the *will* of the *Spirit*, this imaginary objection of the *Arians*, which if it be an *error* must also be a *blasphemy*, will turn to a demonstration against them. And that the *will* of *God* really is the *will* of the *Spirit*, is manifest from 1 Cor. xii. 11. *all these worketh that one and the self-same* SPIRIT, *dividing to every man severally as* HE (even *he himself*) WILLETH.

XXVI.

† **Rom. viii. 26. The *Spirit* itself *maketh intercession for us.***

The *Spirit* is not *God*, because he *maketh intercession* with God; and God, as it is imagined, cannot *intercede* with *himself*. But it is a matter of fact, that he has actually done this: therefore it is wicked and false to say that he *cannot*. For God *reconciled* the world TO HIMSELF, and it was done by *intercession*. The other objections I meet with, are all of this stamp: as that the Spirit is said to be *given*, to *proceed*, to be

poured out, to be *sent*; and they argue that it is impossible for God to *give*, to *proceed* from, or to *send*, *himself*. But here the question is begged, that *God* is but *one person*, in which case it might be a contradiction: but the scriptures demonstrate, as it will be seen in the following chapter, that *God* is *three persons*; and then there is no contradiction in any of these things. It is also to be observed, that the *giving*, *proceeding*, *sending*, and *ministration* of the eternal *Spirit* to *Christ* in glory, are terms that concern not the divine *nature*, but relate merely to the *acts* and *offices*, which the several *persons* of the blessed trinity have mercifully condescended to take upon them, for conducting the present economy of man's *redemption* and *sanctification*.

By this time, I take it for granted, every pious reader must have observed, how copious and conclusive the *scriptures* of the *Old Testament* are, upon the subject of the *trinity*; and that without having recourse to them upon every occasion, it is impossible for me or for any man to deal fairly and honestly by the *apostolical doctrine* of the Church of *England*. Our *Lord* himself has told us, that *every scribe*, *or* teacher, *instructed into the kingdom of heaven*, *should bring forth out of his treasure*, *things* NEW and old.[a] It was his own practice. He appealed, at every turn, to the *law*, the *prophets*, and the *psalms*, for the testimony of his own doctrine; and the church has followed his example, from the days of the apostles *almost* down to the present times. And so far is the Old Testament

[a] Matt xiii. 52.

from being no part of the scripture, that it is the book, and the only, book, the gospel calls by the name of *the scripture*. It was this book, which the *noble* and faithful *Bereans* searched every day of their lives, to see whether the gospel then preached and afterwards published in the *New Testament*, was agreeable to it; with the intention, either to receive or reject it, as it should appear to be recommended by this authority. It was this book, for his skill in which, *Apollos* is praised as one *mighty in the scriptures*; the same scriptures, of which St. *Paul* was bold to affirm, for the benefit of a brother *Christian*, that they were *able to make him wise unto salvation through* faith *that is in Christ Jesus*. As long *as this faith* flourished in the church, these scriptures were much read and profitably understood: but now it is dwindled into a dry lifeless system of morality, they are become in a manner useless; and some (it grieves me to say it) even of those who have undertaken to *teach others*, want themselves to be *taught again* this first element of Christianity, that the *New Testament* can never be understood and explained, but by comparing it with the *Old*.

Of this error and its consequences we have a sad example in the celebrated Dr. *Clarke*; a man, whose talents might have adorned the doctrine of Christ, had not his *faith* been eaten up by an heathen spirit of imagination and philosophy. He published a book entitled, *the Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity*; a work of great pains and premeditation. In a short preface he allows the subject to be *of the*

greatest importance in religion—not to be treated of carelessly—but *examined by a serious study of the* WHOLE SCRIPTURE. And to convince the world that this and no other was *his own* practice, he affirms, in his *introduction*, p. 17. and prints it in *capitals*, that he has collected ALL *the texts* relating to that matter. Yet his whole collection is finished and shut up without a single text from the *Old Testament!* I cannot find that he has even mentioned such a book. "The Christian revelation," says he, p. 1. "is the doctrine of Christ and his apostles." This he calls, p. 4.—"The *books of scripture*;" and again, p. 5.—"The *books of scripture*—not only *the rule*, but *the whole and the only rule of truth*—the only foundation we have to go upon." And he proves it thus—"because no man has since pretended to have any new revelation." An argument that will prejudice few people in favour of his sincerity. For though there has been no *new revelation* SINCE the books of the New Testament, as we all confess: does it follow that there was no *old revelation* BEFORE them? And did this author never read, that the same GOD, *who spake in these last days by* his Son, *spake in time past unto the fathers by the* prophets?[a] yet he affects to know nothing at all of the matter. And as to the use he makes of the *New Testament*, who would expect, that a man who has made *nothing* of *one half of* God's revelation, should be very nice in his treatment of the *other?* In the first

[a] Hebrews i. 1.

place, he has not vouchsafed to follow the apostle's direction of *comparing spiritual things with spiritual*, thence to collect their true meaning; but sets down his texts in such an order, as makes them to be all single and independent of one another; and that gives all possible liberty to the imagination to thrust in what sort of comment it pleases. When he refers to any parallel place (which I think is *never* done, but on *one* side of the question) the reader is not directed to the text itself, but to the *meaning* he has fastened upon it. At the beginning of every chapter, he sets down his *own opinion* at large, as the *title* of it: and you are to believe, that all the passages of that division do certainly prove it: which if cleared of his comments, and compared with other texts, are found to prove no such thing, but the very contrary. And this he calls *the Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity*: but if we call it by its true name, it is—Clarke's *Doctrine of the Scripture;* that is, of *half* the Scripture. How it came to pass, that he should thus boldly set down his own resolutions upon the most profound article of the *Christian* faith, without consulting *all* the evidence that relates to it, or rightly examining *any part of it: how* this came to pass, God is to determine, to whom all things are naked and open. All I have to do with him, is to rescue the *word of God* from such *deceitful handling*. And I have prevailed with myself to make these few reflections, because I find some modern objectors of a lower class, have used this book in conversation and in print, as the oracle of the party, taking the *scripture* upon trust as his principles would give

im leave to retail it. I know it will be accounted an *hard thing*, and called *invidious*, to rake thus into the *ashes* of a writer who is not alive to answer for himself. And I confess, I am very far from taking any *pleasure* in it. But is it not much *harder*, that the ashes of this man should be scattered over the land to breed and inflame the plague of heresy, till the whole *head* is sick and the *heart faint*, and the *whole body* full of putrifying blains and sores? *Arianism* is now no longer a *pestilence* that walketh in *darkness* but that brazens it out against the sun's light, and *destroyeth* in the *noon day*. It is a *canker*, which if it be *encouraged* much longer, will certainly *eat* out the vitals of *Christianity* in this kingdom: and when the *faith* is gone, the *church* in all probability will soon follow after it; for if the holy oil be wasted and spilt the lamp that was made to hold it, will be of no farther use.

CHAPTER III.

THE

PLURALITY

AND

TRINITY OF PERSONS.

I.

The *Hebrew* name so often used in the *Old Testament*, which we have translated by the word *God*, is *Elohim*, a noun substantive of the *plural* number, regularly formed from its *singular*,* and very frequently joined with plural verbs and plural adjectives, to express a *plurality* in the divine nature: though for another obvious reason, it is generally constructed with verbs and pronouns of the singular number, and gives a good sense, though the grammar of it be somewhat irregular.

The *Jews* would persuade us not to consider this word as a plural noun, but on some particular occasions. Whoever will be at the pains to examine their

* אלוה and אלה see the *Heb.* of Deut. xxxii. 17. and Heb. i. 11.

reasoning, will find it to be very childish and inconsistent, wholly owing to their hatred against the divinity of *Jesus Christ*, and the notion of a trinity. But when the *Jew* is become a *Christian*, and the stumbling-block of the *cross* removed out of his way, he can allow the name *Elohim* to be *plural* as readily as other men; and it is one of the principal points he chuses to insist upon, to convince the world that his eyes are open, and he is sincere in his profession of the *Christian* religion.

John Xeres, a *Jew*, converted here in *England* about forty years ago, published a sensible and affectionate address to his unbelieving brethren, wherein he lays before them his *reasons for leaving the Jewish religion and embracing the Christian*. "The Christians (says he)* confess *Jesus* to be *God*; and it is this that makes us look upon the gospels as books that overturn the very principles of religion, the truth of which is built upon this article, the *unity of God*. In this argument lies the strength of what you object against the Christian religion." Then he undertakes to prove that the unity of God is not such as he once understood it to be, an unity of *person*, but of *essence*, under which more persons than one are comprehended; and the first proof he offers is that of the name *Elohim*. "Why else, says he,† is that frequent mention of *God* by nouns of the plural number? as in Gen. i. 1. where the word *Elohim*, which is rendered *God*, is of the plural number, though annexed to a

* P. 53. † P. 57.

verb of the singular number; which demonstrates as evidently as may be, that there are several persons partaking of the same divine nature and essence."

II.

Gen. i. 26. And GOD said, let us make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness.

No sensible reason can be given, why God should speak of himself in the *plural* number, unless he consists of more persons than one. Dr. *Clarke* contrived the plan of his *Scripture Doctrine* so as to leave out this difficulty with many more of the same kind. Others there are who tell us it is a figurative way of speaking, only to express the dignity of God, not to denote any *plurality* in him. For they observe it is customary for a king, who is only one person, to speak of himself in the same style. But how absurd is it, that God should borrow his way of speaking from a king, before a man was created upon the earth? And even granting this to be possible, yet the cases will not agree. For though a king or governor may say *us* and *we*, there is certainly no figure of speech that will allow any single person to say, *one of us*, when he speaks of *himself*. It is a phrase that can have no meaning, unless there be more persons than one to chuse out of. Yet this, as we shall find, is the style in which God has spoken of himself in the following article. Though it be impossible to ap-

ply this plural expression to any but the persons of the godhead, there is a writer who has attempted to turn the force of it by another text, in which, as he says very truly, *the weakness of the argument will appear at sight.* God invites the people by the prophet *Isaiah*, and says, "come now and *let us reason* together," chap. i. ver. 18. Upon which he remarks, that, "if this form of expression puts the children of *Israel* upon an equality with God, then we may allow some force in this argument."[a]

And so we may if it does not. For *let us reason* refers to an act common to all spirits; and therefore no Christian ever thought of arguing from it. But *let us make man* refers only to an act of the godhead. All spirits can *reason:* but only the supreme Spirit can *create.* Therefore the author, instead of answering the expression, hath only brought together two texts as widely different as God and man.

If the King were to say to another, "let us *see*," or let "us *breathe*," no man would be so weak as to think that the expression denoted any equality or co-ordination in the person so spoken to. But if he should say, "let us pardon a malefactor condemned by the law," then the expression would admit of such an inference. And the objector might have been aware of these distinctions, if he had prematurely settled his faith before he had consulted the holy scripture.

a See an *Appeal to the Common Sense of all Christian People*, p. 139.

III.

Gen. iii. 22. And the LORD GOD said, behold the man is become like ONE OF US.

The *Jews* are greatly perplexed with this passage. They endeavor to put it off, by telling us, God must here be understood to speak of himself and his *council*, or as they term it בית דין his *house of judgment*, made up of angels, &c. to which there needs no answer but that of the prophet, *who hath known the mind of the Lord, or who hath been his* counsellor ?[a]

IV.

Gen. xi. 6, 7. And the LORD said—let US go down and there confound (Heb. let US confound) their language.

Another instance of this occurs in *Isaiah* vi. 8. *I heard the voice of the* LORD, *saying, whom shall I send and who will go for* US ? Upon the plural word *nobis*, us, there is a short note of *Junius* and *Tremellius*, which contains the substance of all that can be said upon the occasion—"*Nam consilium est Dei Patris, Filii, & Spiritus Sancti*"—*For this* (say they) *is a consultation of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.* —And it shall be proved to be so, in a proper place from an inspired comment upon this chapter of *Isaiah*.

a Rom. xi. 34. and Isa. xl. 13.

V.

Gen. xx. 13. And it came to pass when GOD *caused me to wander* from my father's house, &c.

The *Hebrew* is—*Deus errare facerent*—*God* they *caused me to wander:* which, however strange it may sound to an *English* hearer, is the strict grammatical rendering of the original. And the expression is affirmed by *Junius* and *Tremellius*, with other commentators out of number, to respect the plurality of the persons in the godhead. They have a short note upon it to the following effect—*Plurale verbum cum Dei nomine, ad indicandum* S. Triados *mysterium:* which I mention, not in the way of an *authority*, but only to show how clear the case is to an *Hebrew* reader, whose mind is without prejudice. And though others may have attempted to conceal such evidence as this under an heap of critical rubbish, yet if we are to come to no resolution till those who dislike the *doctrine* of a trinity have done disputing about the *words* that convey it, the day of judgment itself would find us undetermined. And if we would but attend to this state of the case, and apply it also to other points of doctrine, I am well convinced it would shorten many of our disputes, and make the word of God a much more easy and intelligible book than it passes for at present.

VI.

Gen. xxv. 7. Because there GOD *appeared* unto him, &c.

Here again the *Hebrew* verb is *plural—Deus revelati sunt—God* they *appeared*, or *were revealed to him*. So again in 2 Sam. vii. 23.—*even like Israel whom* God went *to redeem*: which in the original is—*iverunt Deus ad redimendum*; the verb being in the *plural*. A celebrated *Latin* translator[a] of the Old Testament has ventured to render it—*iverunt* Dii *ad redimendum*: but *Dii* in Latin is not answerable to *Elohim* in the *Hebrew*; and, in strictness, may be thought to countenance the notion of *Tritheism* or a plurality of *Gods*; which is abhorrent from the express doctrine of the scripture: and against which the name *Elohim* is purposely guarded, by its being connected so very often with verbs and pronouns in the *singular*.

VII.

Deut. iv. 7. What nation is there so great, that hath GOD *so nigh* unto them? &c.

In the two preceding articles we have seen the name of God connected with *plural verbs*: it is here joined to a *plural adjective*, whose termination is the same with its own; for the original has it—*Elohim Kerebim—Deus propinqui—God who* are *so near*.

a *Pagninus* in his interlineary version published by *Montanus*.

Another instance of which we have in Josh. xxiv. 19. *Ye cannot serve the Lord, for he is an* holy God. For the *Hebrew* reads it—*Deus* sancti *ipse,—he is a God who* are holy ones. And again, Psalm lviii. 12. *Doubtless there is a* God that judgeth *the earth:* the Hebrew of which is—*Deus* judicantes *in terra—a God* (i. e. divine persons) *who* are judging *in the earth.*

VIII.

Several other nouns there are besides the name *Elohim*, as well adjective as substantive, that are set down in the plural number, where it cannot be denied that the being of *God* is to be understood by them.

Mal. i. 6. If I be a MASTER, where is my fear? The Heb. is אדנים *Adonim*, in the *plural—If I am* masters, &c.

Isa. liv. 5. *For thy maker is thine husband, the Lord of hosts is his name.* Here also the Hebrew substantives for *thy maker* and *thy husband*, are both plural בעליך עשיך. And to prove that עשיך cannot signify *thy maker*, in the singular number, it is also found connected with the word *Jehovah* in its singular form, without the י inserted; as in Isa. li. 13.—*And forgettest the Lord* thy maker—יהוה עשך.

Eccl. xii. 1. *Remember* thy creator *in the days of thy youth*, &c. The Hebrew of which is—*Remember* בוראיך את thy *creators*, in the plural. And there is nothing strange in this, when we can prove so easily that the world and all men in it were created by a *trinity*.

Instead of the usual names of God, *adjectives* expressing some divine attribute are very frequently substituted: and these also occur in the plural, as in the following examples.

Prov. ix. 10. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge* (קדשים) *of the* HOLY ONES *is understanding.* Another instance of which may be found in chap. xxx. 3. See also Hos. xi. 12. in the *Hebrew*, xii. 1.

Eccl. v. 8. *There be* HIGHER *than they.* The Hebrew is (גבהים) *high ones*, in the plural; and is understood even by the *Jews* themselves to mean the *holy and blessed God.* *Junius* and *Tremellius* put *altissimus* in their text, but acknowledge the Hebrew to be *alti—plurale pro singulari superlativo, mysterium* S. Triados *notans.*

Psalm. lxxviii. 25. *Man did eat* Angels' *food.*

The word (אבירים) *mighty* ones, is never used for *angels;* and must in this place signify God, for the two following reasons: 1. Because *Abir* in the singular is several times used absolutely as a name of God; who is called *Abir Israel, the mighty one of Israel*, and *Abir Jacob, the mighty one of Jacob.* Gen. xlix. 24. Psalm cxxxii. 2. where the LXX have rendered it Θεῷ. 2. Because our blessed Saviour, in discoursing upon the *manna*, John vi. 31—33, quotes this part of the Psalm, and calls that *the bread of* God *from heaven*, which in the Psalm itself is called the

bread of the mighty. Therefore *Abirim* is put for *Elohim*, and is taken in the *plural* because God is plural.

IX.

Dan. iv. 26. And whereas THEY *commanded* to leave the stump of the tree roots, &c.

At the 13th verse of this chapter we read only of one *watcher* or *holy one* coming down from heaven, of whom it is said that HE *cried—leave the stump of his roots in the earth.* Yet the number is here very remarkably changed from *he said* to *they commanded.* And though the words of the curse upon *Nebuchadnezzar* were pronounced by a *watcher* and an *holy one*, in the singular; nevertheless, at the close of the speech, this *matter* is declared to be by the *decree of the* WATCHERS *and the demand by the word of the* HOLY ONES.[a] Now it is very certain that the judgments of God are not founded upon the *decree* and *word* of angels, or of any created beings; therefore this *watcher* could be no created angel, but a person in the Lord *Jehovah*, who condescends to *watch over*[b] his people, and is called the *keeper of Israel, that neither slumbereth nor sleepeth.* The change of these verbs and nouns from the singular to the plural, can be accounted for upon no other principle: it is a case

a Ver. 17. Compare this with Prov. ix. 10. cited in No. VIII. of this chapter.

b Jer. xxxi. 28.

to which there is no parallel in any language, and such as can be reconcileable only to the being of *God*, who is *one* and *many*. We are to collect from it, that in this, as in every act of the godhead, there was a consent and concurrence of the persons in the trinity; and though there was *one* only who *spake*, it was the word and *decree* of *all*. There is an instance of this sort in the New Testament. The disciples of *Christ* were commanded to *baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* And, without doubt, the baptism they administered was in all cases agreeable to the prescribed form. Nevertheless we are told of some, who were commanded to be *baptized in the name of the Lord*,[a] and particularly in the *name of the Lord Jesus*;[b] so that there was a strange defect either in the baptism itself, or in the account we have of it; or the mention of one person in the trinity must *imply* the presence, name, and authority of them all; as the passage is understood by Irenæus—*in Christi nomine subauditur qui unxit, & qui unctus est, & ipsa unctio in qua unctus est.* Lib. III. cap. 20.

X.

Dan. v. 18. The most high GOD *gave* to *Nebuchadnezzar* a kingdom and majesty and *glory* and honor.

V. 20. And THEY took his *glory* from him.

a Acts x. 48. b Ibid. viii. 16.

Here again, the word *they* is a plain relative to the *most high God.* Nor can it otherwise be agreeable to the sense of the history, or the reason of the thing itself, considered as a matter of fact. For who was it that *took away* the *glory* of the king? It was not the work of *men*, but a supernatural act of *the most high God;* to whom *Nebuchadnezzar* himself hath ascribed it—*those that walk in pride* HE *is able to* abase.

I might here subjoin in proof of a *plurality*, those numerous passages of the Old Testament, wherein God is spoken of or speaks of himself, as of *more persons than one.* I will produce a few of them, to shew that such are not wanting. Gen. xix. 24. *The* Lord *rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire* from the Lord *out of heaven.* Psal. cx. 1. *The* Lord *said unto* my Lord, *sit thou on my right hand*, &c. Dan. ix. 17. *Now therefore*, O our God, *hear the prayer of thy servant—for the* Lord's *sake.* Prov. xxx. 4. *Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is* his *name, and what is his* Son's *name, if thou canst tell?* Isa. x. 12. *When the* Lord *hath performed* his *whole work upon Jerusalem I will punish*, &c. Ibid. xiii. 13. I *will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the* Lord of hosts, *and in the day of* his *fierce anger.* Ibid. xxii. 19. *And* I will *drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall* he *pull thee down.* Ibid. lxiv. 4. *Neither hath the eye seen*, O God, *beside* thee, *what* he *hath prepared for him that waiteth for* him. Hosea i. 7. *I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the* Lord their God. Zech. ii. 10, 11. *I will dwell*

in the midst of thee, saith the Lord; *and many nations shall be joined to* the Lord *in that day and shall be* my *people; and I will dwell in the midst of thee and thou shalt know that* the Lord of hosts *hath sent* me *unto thee.* Ibid. x. 12. *And I will strengthen them in the* Lord, *and they shall walk up and down in* his *name, saith* the Lord.

The passages hitherto produced in this chapter are designed only to prove an *indefinite* plurality in God. In the remaining part of it, I shall bring forward another class of texts, which shews this plurality to be a *trinity.*

XI.

Psal. xxxiii. 6. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the *breath* (*Heb.* SPIRIT) of his mouth.

The *breath* or the Spirit of the Lord's *mouth*, does undoubtedly mean the third person of the trinity; who is called, Job xxxiii. 4. *The* Spirit *of God, and the* breath *of the Almighty.* And it should here be remembered, that when Christ communicated the *Holy Ghost* to his disciples, he did it by *breathing* upon them:[a] a demonstration that *Christ* our Saviour, who, as a *person*, is the *word* of the Lord, is in *nature* the Lord *himself;* because the Spirit or *breath* of the *Almighty* is also the *breath* of *Christ.* And this fact is also decisive for the word FILIOQUE, so much controverted in the *Nicene* Creed.

[a] John xx. 22.

XII.

Psal. xlviii. 16. And now the LORD GOD and his SPIRIT hath sent ME.

The speaker in this verse is no other than *Christ*, who at ver. 12. calls himself *the first and the last*, and does here declare himself to be *sent*, not only by the *Lord God* but also by his *Spirit:* which should be taken some notice of, because the *Arians* have objected to the co-equality of the *Son* with the *Father*, because he is said to be *sent* by him. But if this should hold, it will follow that *Christ*, for the same reason, is also inferior to the *Spirit*. The author of an *Essay on Spirit*, whose violent proceedings in the Church have chiefly moved me to draw up these papers, is warm in the pursuit of this argument, that *Christ* is inferior to the Father, because he was *sent* by him. "We may therefore, says he, fairly argue, as our Saviour himself does upon another occasion—that as the *servant is not equal to his lord, so neither is he that is sent* equal *to him that sent him.*"[a] Not quite so *fairly:* for here is a gross misrepresentation, of which, and of many other things, this author should give us some account, before he proceeds any farther in the work of *reformation;* it being a maxim, I think, with the wise and learned, that a man should always reform *himself*, before he undertakes to reform the world. Upon the occasion he refers to, our Saviour has said—*The ser-*

a Page 98.

vant is NOT GREATER *than his Lord; neither is he that is sent* GREATER *than he that sent him.*[a] But in the place of this, he has ventured to substitute another reading that comes up to his point, and agrees better with the intended work of reformation—"*he that is sent is* not equal *to him that sent him;*" printing the word *equal* in a different character to make it more observable; and then puts an objection of his own *forging* into the mouth of our blessed Saviour. He professes himself a great enemy to *human compositions:* and we have reason to believe him, where those compositions are not *his own.* But his making so free with this and many other texts, does not look as if he was any great friend to the compositions of the *Holy Ghost;* and can do but little credit to a *Vindicator* of the *Holy Scriptures* from the cavils and scoffs of an infidel.

XIII.

Isa. xxxiv. 16. Seek ye out of the book of the *Lord* and read—for MY mouth it hath commanded, and HIS SPIRIT it hath gathered them.

In these words there is *one* person speaking of the *Spirit* of *another* person: so that the whole *trinity* is here included. Whether God *the Father* or God *the Son* is to be understood as the speaker, it is neither

a John xiii. 16.

easy nor material to determine. I am rather inclined to think it is the *former*.

XIV.

Numb. iv. 24, &c.

The LORD bless thee and keep thee.
The LORD make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.
The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

After this form the High Priest was commanded to bless the children of Israel. The name of *the Lord*, in Hebrew *Jehovah*, is here repeated *three* times. And parallel to this is the form of Christian Baptism; wherein the three personal terms of *Father*, *Son*, and *Holy Ghost*, are not represented as so many different names, but as one *name*; the one divine nature of God being no more divided by these three, than by the single name *Jehovah* thrice repeated. If the three articles of this benediction be attentively considered, their contents will be found to agree respectively to the three persons taken in the usual order of *the Father*, *the Son*, and *the Holy Ghost*. The *Father* is the author of *blessing* and *preservation*. Grace and *illumination* are from the *Son*, by whom we have *the* light *of the knowledge of the* glory *of God, in the* face *of Jesus Christ*. *Peace* is the gift of the *Spirit*, whose name is *the Comforter*, and whose first and best *fruit* is the work of *peace*.

Petrus Alphonsi, an eminent *Jew*, converted in the beginning of the 12th Century, and presented to the font by *Alphonsus* a king of *Spain*, wrote a learned treatise against the *Jews*, wherein he presses them with this scripture, as a plain argument that there are *three persons* to whom the great and *incommunicable* name of *Jehovah* is applied. And even the unconverted *Jews* according to *Bechai*, one of their *Rabbi's*, have a tradition, that when the high priest pronounced this blessing over the people—*elevatione manuum sic digitos composuit, ut* Triada *exprimerent—he lifted up his hands, and disposed his fingers into such a form as to express a* trinity. All the foundation there is for this in the scripture, is Lev. ix. 22. As for the rest, be it a matter of fact or not, yet if we consider whence it comes, there is something very remarkable in it. See *Observ. Jos. de vois.* in *Pug. Fid. p.* 400, 556, 557.

XV.

Math. xxviii. 19. Baptizing them in the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST.

XVI.

2 Thes. iii. 5. The LORD (the *Holy Ghost*, see C. 2. Art. 4. 18.) direct your hearts into the love of GOD (*the Father*) and into the patient waiting for CHRIST,

XVII.

2 Cor. xiii. 14. The grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the communion of the HOLY GHOST.

In this and the foregoing article, the *order* of the *persons* is different from that of Matth. xxviii. 19. The Holy Ghost having the *first place* in the former of them, and Christ in the latter: which is a sufficient warrant for that clause in the creed of St. *Athanasius* —In this Trinity, "none is afore or after other." And Dr. *Clarke*, I presume, apprehended something of this sort; because he has corrected the apostle, and transposed the order of the persons in 2 Cor. xiii. 14. without the least apology, or giving his reader any warning of it. § LV. p. 377.

XVIII.

1 John v. 7. There are THREE that bear record in heaven, the FATHER, the WORD and the HOLY GHOST.—

There has been much disputing about the authenticity of this text. I firmly believe it to be genuine for the following reasons: 1. St. *Jerom*,[a] who had a better opportunity of examining the true merits of the cause than we can possibly have at this distance of time, tells us plainly, that he found out how it had

[a] Præf. ad Canon. Epist.

been adulterated, mistranslated, and omitted on purpose to elude the truth. 2. The divines of *Lovain* having compared many *Latin* copies, found this text wanting but in five of them; and *R. Stephens* found it retained in nine of sixteen ancient manuscripts which he used. 3. It is *certainly* quoted twice by St. *Cyprian*,[a] who wrote before the council of *Nice*: and also by *Tertullian*; as the reader is left to judge after he has read the passage in the margin.[b] Dr. *Clarke*, therefore, is *not to be believed* when he tells us, it was "never cited by any of the *Latins* before St. *Jerom*."[c] 4. The sense is not perfect without it; there being a contrast of three witnesses in heaven to three upon earth; the *Father*, the *word*, *and* the *Holy Ghost*, whose testimony is called the *witness of God*; and the *Spirit*, the *water*, and the *blood*, which being administered by the church upon earth, is called the *witness of men*. He that desires to see this text farther vindicated from the malice of *Faustus Socinus*, may consult *Pool's Synopsis*, and Dr. *Hammond*; and I wish he would also read what has lately been published upon it by my good and learned friend Dr. *Delany*, in his volume of Sermons, p. 69, &c.

But even allowing it to be spurious, it contains nothing but what is abundantly asserted elsewhere; and that both with regard to the trinity in general, and this their divine *testimony* in particular. For that

a De Unit. Eccl. 109. Epist. LXXIII.

b Connexus patris in filio, & silii in paracleto, tres efficit cohærentes, alterum ex altero; *qui tres unum sunt*, &c. *adv.* Prax.

c See the text in his 2d edition.

there are *three* divine persons who *bear record* to the mission of Christ, is evident from the following scriptures:

John viii. 17, 18. *The testimony of two men is true. I am* ONE *that bear witness of* MYSELF. *The* FATHER *that sent me beareth witness of me.*

1 John v. 6. *It is the* SPIRIT *that beareth witness.*

And Christ has also mentioned, upon another occasion, a *plurality* of witnesses in heaven—WE *speak* (says he) *that* we *do know, and testify that* we *have* seen, *and ye receive not* OUR *witness!*[a] which can be no other than the *witness* of the *trinity;* because it is added—*no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven;* therefore no *man* could join with *Christ* in revealing the things of heaven to us.

XIX.

Isa. vi. 3. And one cried unto another and said, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is the LORD OF HOSTS. See also Rev. iv. 8.

"They are not content (says *Origen*) to say it *once* or *twice*, but take the perfect number of the *trinity*, thereby to declare the manifold *holiness* of God; which is a repeated intercommunion of a threefold holiness; the holiness of the *Father*, the holiness of the only begotten *Son*, and of the *Holy Ghost.*"[b] And

a John iii. 11.

b Non eis sufficet semel clamare sanctus, neque bis; sed perfectum numerum Trinitatis assumunt, ut multitudinem sanctitatis Dei manifestent; quæ est trinæ sanctitatis repetita communitas; sanctitas patris, sanctitas unigeniti filii, & spiritus sancti. *Orig. Hom. in loc.*

that the *Seraphim* did really celebrate all the three persons of the Godhead upon this occasion, is no conjecture; but a point capable of the clearest demonstration.

The prophet tells us, ver. 1. *he saw the* Lord *sitting upon a throne*; and at ver. 5. that *his eyes had seen the king, the Lord of Hosts.* Now if there be any phrase in the bible to distinguish the true God, it is this of the *Lord of Hosts.* I never saw it disputed by any *Arian* writer. The author of an *Essay on Spirit* confesses it;[a] and Dr. *Clark* supposes the name *Lord of Sabaoth* (Jam. v. 4.) proper to the *Father* only. So that in this *Lord of hosts*, sitting upon his throne, there was the presence of *God the Father.*

That there was also the presence of *God the Son*, appears from John xii. 41. *These things said* Esaias, *when he saw his* (Christ's) *glory and spake of him.*†

a P. 65.

† It is written at ver. 3—*Holy, holy, holy, is the* Lord of Hosts, *the whole earth is full of* HIS GLORY. This St. *John* has affirmed to be the *glory of Christ*; but it was the glory of the Lord of Hosts: therefore, Christ is the Lord of Hosts. And if the parallel passage of Rev. iv. 8. be compared with this, it will appear (as it hath already chap. I. Art. XXIII) that he is the *God Almighty* spoken of in that book. The Greek version of the LXX hath it thus:

αγιος, αγιος, αγιος, Κυριος, σαββαωθ.

In Rev. iv. 8. it is, αγιος, αγιος, αγιος, Κυριος ο Θεος ο παντοκρατωρ Whence it evidently appears, that Κυριος ο Θεος ο παντοκρατωρ is equivalent in the language of heaven to *Jehovah Sabaoth*: therefore, as *Christ* is the *Lord of Hosts* of the Old Testament, he is thereby proved *ipso facto* to be the *God Almighty* of the New. Which shews the weakness of those frequent remarks Dr. *Clarke* has bestowed upon the word παντοκρατωρ as the great term of distinction between the person of *Christ*, and that of God *the Father.*

And that there was the presence of *God the Holy Ghost*, is determined by Acts xxviii. 25. *Well spake the* Holy Ghost *by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, saying*, &c. then follow the words which the prophet affirms to have been spoken by the *Lord of hosts*.

The text of John xii. 41. which being compared with this of Isaiah, proves the second person of the trinity to be the *Lord of hosts*, is evaded by Dr. *Clarke* in the following manner: "The *glory* which *Isaias* saw, Isa. vi. 1. is plainly the glory of *God the father*; whence the followers of *Sabellius* conclude, because St. *John* here calls it the *glory of Christ*, that therefore the Father and the Son are one and the same individual person."[a] It is concluded by the Orthodox of the church of *England*, that the person of Christ, and the person of God the father, are not one and the same *individual person*, but one and the same *Lord of hosts*; because the scripture, thus compared hath affirmed them so to be; and THIS is the *conclusion* Dr. *Clarke* should have answered. But instead of *this*, he has produced the monstrous and impossible doctrine of *Sabellius*, that they are one and the same *individual person*, and answered *that*: which to be sure is easily done, and is quite foreign to the purpose. The other conclusion, which is the only true and natural one, is kept out of sight, because it cannot be answered: and this of *Sabellius* is slurred upon his credulous readers, as the doctrine of the *orthodox*, who disclaim and abhor it. This is no slander; for let

a Page 102.

any person read his book with a little circumspection, and he will soon find who and what he would mean by the *followers* and *doctrine* of *Sabellius*. And let me give the reader the following caution, which he will find to be of great service in detecting the fallacious answers of the *Arian* writers in their controversies with the orthodox. Always be careful to examine whether they have replied to the proof *itself*, or to *something else* in the place of it. For when you have obtained any clear evidence from the scripture, that two or more perons are one *God*, one *Lord*, &c. they will give a new face to your conclusion, by changing the terms *God* or *Lord*, which are names of a *nature*, for that of person, which can belong only to an *individual*. And then they shout for victory. O, say they, this man is a *Sabellian!* he believes *three persons* to be *one person!* But on the other hand, if you make it appear that in the unity of the one God or Lord there are more persons than one, then they change the word *persons* for that of *Gods:* so that you are confuted this way also; and they cry you up for a *Tritheist*, *a* maintainer of *three Gods!* By the help of this artifice, Dr. *Clarke* attempted to deal with the *scripture;* and the author of an *Essay on Spirit* with the *Creeds* and *Liturgy* of the church. And, though it be a matter scarce worth mentioning, thus also the authors of a *Monthly Review* have attempted to deal with *myself*. Some time ago I published a *full answer to the Essay on Spirit*, which has since been reprinted in *Ireland*, and I humbly hope may have done some little service. But when these gentlemen had

deliberated with themselves upon it for three or four months, it was retailed from their scandalous shop as a system of *Tritheism*, *Sabellianism*, and what not? I hope God will forgive them! and this is all the answer I shall ever make to such men and such writers.

CHAPTER IV.

THE

TRINITY IN UNITY.

If there be any diversity of nature, or any essential subordination in the persons of the godhead, it must be revealed to us either in their *names*, or their *attributes*, or their *acts;* for it is by these only that they are or can possibly be made known to us in this life. If the scripture has made no difference in any of these, farther than that of a *personal* distinction (which we all allow) we are no longer to doubt that there is a natural or essential *unity* in the three persons of the *Father*, the *Word*, and the *Holy Ghost*. It shall therefore be shewn in this chapter, by a sort of proof more comprehensive than what has gone before, that these persons have the same *names*, the same *attributes*, the same counsel or *will*, and all concur, after an ineffable manner, in the same divine *acts;* so that what the scripture is falsely supposed to have ascribed to God in *one* person, will appear to be ascribed by the same authority to God in *three* persons. That therefore,

these three persons are but *one* God; they are three distinct *agents*, yet there is but one and the same divine *agency*; or, as the church has more fully and better expressed it, that "that which we believe of the glory of the Father, the same we are to believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any difference or inequality"[a]

I.

The trinity in unity is the *one Lord*, the *creator* of the world.

Psalm. xxxiii. 6. *By the* Word *of the* Lord *were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the* breath (*Heb.* Spirit) *of his mouth.* The whole trinity therefore created the world: yet this trinity is but *one Lord*: for it is written,

Isa. xliv. 24. *I am the* Lord *that maketh all things, that stretcheth forth the heavens* ALONE, *that spreadeth abroad the earth* BY MYSELF. It follows therefore, either that the *Word* and *Spirit* did *not* make the heavens: or, that the *Father*, with his *Word* and *Spirit*, are the ALONE Lord and creator of all things.

II.

The trinity in unity is the one supreme being or nature, distinguished from all other beings by the name *Jehovah.* For the scripture gives us the following position.

[a] Proper Preface upon the Feast of Trinity.

Deut. vi. 4. *The Lord our God is* ONE JEHOVAH: and again, Psal. lxxxiii. *Thou whose name* ALONE *is* JEHOVAH, *art the most high over all the earth.*

Yet *Christ* is *Jehovah.*

Jer. xxiii. 6. *This is the name whereby he shall be called,* JEHOVAH *our righteousness.*

So is the *Spirit* also.

Ezek. viii. 1. 3. *The Lord* JEHOVAH *put forth the form of an hand and took me,—and the* SPIRIT *lift me,* &c. see also CHAP. II. Art. IV. and XXIV.

Therefore, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are the ONE Jehovah: they are three persons yet they have but *one name* and *one nature.* And it is the great advantage of this argument, that the name *Jehovah* is not capable of any such equivocal interpretations as that of *God;* it has no plural; is communicable to any derived or created being; and is peculiar to the divine nature, because it is descriptive of it. The author of an *Essay on Spirit* has endeavored to avoid the force of this proof, by pretending that there are two *Jehovahs*, one a distinct being from the other. But in this he has exposed the cause he meant to defend, and left the argument in a worse state than he found it: for if there be *two*, then it is false that there is a *most high over all the earth, whose name* ALONE *is Jehovah;* and let him try if he can reconcile it. Dr. *Clarke* also pretends, in the titles to two of his sections, wherein the collection of texts is very numerous, to have set down the *passages wherein it is declared* that the second and third persons

derive their being (that is the expression he was not afraid to make use of) *from the Father.* But he has not produced one such passage; no such thing being *declared* in the whole bible; and the contrary to it is plainly revealed under this application of the name *Jehovah.*

III.

The trinity in unity is *the Lord* absolutely so called; in *Hebrew, Adonai;* in Greek, ὁ Κυριος.

Rom. x. 12.† *The same* LORD *over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

Luke ii. 11. *A Saviour which is Christ the* LORD.

Rom. xi. 34. *For who hath known the mind of the* LORD, *or who hath been his counsellor?* Which *Lord* as we learn from the prophet whence this is quoted, is the *Spirit;* for it is written, Isai. xl. 13. *Who hath directed the* SPIRIT *of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?* That the person of the *Spirit* is the *Lord,* is also plain from 2 Cor. iii. 18. *Now the Lord is that Spirit*—ὁ δε κυριος το Πνευμα εστιν—*we are changed from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord;* καθαπερ απο κυριου Πνευματος, *as by the Lord the Spirit;* which is all along to be understood of the *personal Spirit,* because the apostle begins expressly with *that* at the 3d verse of this chapter. And it was from the

† The reader is desired to observe, that as I cannot in all cases fix upon a text that does precisely distinguish the *person* of the *Father,* I shall therefore be frequently obliged, as in this instance, to set a passage down in the *first* of the three ranks, that does confessedly denote the *true God.*

authority of these words—*The Lord is the Spirit*—added to those of ver. 6.—*the Spirit giveth life*—that the council of *Nice* borrowed the following clause of its creed—" *I believe in the Holy Ghost, the* LORD *and* GIVER OF LIFE."

IV.

The trinity in unity is the *God of Israel.*

Matth. xv. 31. *The multitude glorified the* God of Israel.

Luke i. 16, 17. *The children of* Israel *shall he turn to the Lord* THEIR GOD: *and he shall go before* HIM* —that is, before *Christ.*

2 Sam. xxiii. 2, 3. *The* SPIRIT *of the Lord* spake *by me—the* GOD *of* Israel said, &c. So that unless he who *spake* was *one* being and he that *said* was *another*, the *Spirit* is the *God of Israel.*

* Dr. *Clarke* allows that the word *him* means *Christ*, yet denies that he is intended by *the Lord their God*, which is the *antecedent* to it: and calls this a *manner of speaking.*[a]

V.

The divine *law*, and consequently the *authority* whereupon it is founded, is that of a trinity in unity.

Rom. vii. 25. *I myself serve the* LAW *of* GOD.

Gal. vi. 2. *Fulfil the* LAW *of* CHRIST.*

Rom. viii. 2. *The* LAW *of the* SPIRIT *of life.**

a No. 534.

The divine *law* then, is the law of *God, Christ*, and the *Spirit of life*. But it is written, Jam. iv. 12. *There is* ONE LAWGIVER *who is able to save and to destroy:* therefore, *these* THREE *are* ONE. And here we have the true reason why the scripture has represented the whole trinity as *tempted* and *resisted* by the *disobedience* of man. For *sin* being the transgression of the *Law*, and the law being derived from the undivided authority of the *Father*, the *Son* and the *Holy Ghost*, every breach of it is an offence against the trinity: therefore it is written,

Deut. vi. 16. *Thou shalt not* TEMPT *the* LORD *thy God.*

1 Cor. x. 9.—*Neither let us* TEMPT CHRIST.

Acts v. 9. *How is it that ye have agreed together to* TEMPT *the* SPIRIT *of the Lord?* For Dr. *Clarke's* opinion of this matter, see Ch. II. Art. XV.

** Dr. *Clarke* has left both these texts out of his collection; though he pretends to have set down all the *highest expressions* relating to *Christ* and the *Spirit*.

VI.

The *mind* and *will* of God is the mind and will of a trinity in unity.

The *mind* of God.

1 Cor. ii. 16. *Who hath known the* MIND *of the* LORD?

Ibid.—We have the MIND *of* CHRIST.

Rom. viii. 27. *He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the* MIND *of the* SPIRIT.

The *will* of God.

1 Thess. iv. 3. *This is the* WILL *of* GOD.

Acts xxii. 14. *The God of our fathers hath chosen thee that thou shouldst know* HIS WILL.*

2 Pet. i. 21. *Prophecy came not in old time by the* WILL *of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the* HOLY GHOST.

* This passage is meant of *Christ* and of *his* will. *The God of our fathers* (said *Ananias*) *hath* CHOSEN *thee, &c.* but the *person* in God who appeared to *Ananias* and said of *Saul he is a* CHOSEN *vessel unto* ME, was *the Lord*, even *Jesus*. Acts ix. 15, 17. For want of comparing the scripture with itself, Dr. *Clarke* has set down the text of Acts xxii. 14. as a character of the *Father only*. No. 366.

VII.

The *power* of God is the power of a trinity in unity.

Eph. iii. 7.—*The grace of* GOD *given unto me, by the effectual working of* HIS POWER.

2 Cor. xii. 9—*That the* POWER *of* CHRIST *may rest upon me.*

Rom. xv. 19—*Signs and wonders by the* POWER *of the* SPIRIT *of God.*

The scripture therefore has ascribed divine *power*, and that in the same exercise of it, (the *ministry* and *miracles* of St. *Paul*) to *Christ* and the *Spirit* in common with God *the father*. So that when all glory and *power* is ascribed to the *only wise God*, what God can that be but the trinity? Upon this principle the

scripture is easily reconciled: upon any other it is unintelligible, as the reader may soon find by consulting Dr. *Clarke* and some other of the *Arian* writers; who to avoid this plain doctrine, have tried to amuse us with a religion made of scholastic niceties and unnatural distinctions, which no man can understand, and which themselves are not agreed in, nor ever will be to the world's end. Yet they often dispute against us from the acknowledged *simplicity* of the scripture!

VIII.

The trinity in unity is *eternal*.

Rom. xvi. 25, 26. *The ministry—made manifest according to the commandment* (αιωνιου) *of the* EVERLASTING GOD.

Rev. xxii. 13. *I (Jesus) am the* FIRST *and the* LAST.*

Heb. ix. 14.—*Who through* (αιωνιου) *the* EVERLASTING SPIRIT.

*Dr. *Clarke* allows these words, in *this place*, to mean *Christ*, yet where the same words occur in Rev. i. 8. with the addition of the epithet *Almighty*, he denies it;[a] though they are demonstrated to be spoken of the same person by the context and tenor of the whole chapter:† and he tells us, the character in one place *differs* from the other. So that upon his principle, the scripture has revealed to us two different beings, both of whom are the *first and the last*, yet not

a See No. 696, 414. † See the *note* at chap. iii. at. XIX.

coeternal. Which is sufficient of itself to justify all that was said above concerning his *distinctions, &c.* See Ch. I. Art. III.

IX.

—— Is TRUE.

John. vii. 28. *He that sent me is* TRUE.

Rev. iii. 7. *These things saith he—that is* TRUE, *he that hath the key of David, &c.*

1 John v. 6. *It is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the* SPIRIT *is* TRUTH—η αληθεια THE truth.

X.

—— Is *Holy.*

Rev. xv. 4. *Who shall not fear thee,* O LORD, *and glorify thy name? for* THOU ONLY *art* HOLY.

Acts iii. 14. *But ye denied* THE HOLY ONE, *and desired a murderer to be released unto you, &c.* See also Dan. ix. 24. and Rev. iii. 7.

1 John ii. 20. *Ye have an unction from* THE HOLY ONE; that is an *anointing* from the *Holy Ghost,* who is called,

John xiv. 26. ΤΟ πνευμα ΤΟ αγιον, *The Spirit the Holy one.*

XI.

—— Is *omnipresent.*

Jer. xxiii. 24. *Do not I* fill heaven and earth *saith the* LORD?

Eph. i. 22.—*The fulness of* HIM (Christ) *that* filleth all in all.

Psal. cxxxix. 7, 8. *Whither shall I go then from thy* SPIRIT?—*if I go up into* heaven THOU *art* there; *if I go down into* hell, THOU *art* there *also*.

XII.

—— Is the fountain of *life*.

Deut. xxx. 20.—*Love the* LORD *thy* GOD, *for* HE *is thy* LIFE.

Col. iii. 4. *When* CHRIST *who is* OUR LIFE *shall appear*, &c.

Rom. viii. 10. *The* SPIRIT *is* LIFE.

XIII.

The trinity in unity *made* all mankind.

Psal. c. 3. *The* LORD *he is* GOD, *it is* HE *that hath* MADE US.

John i. 3. *By* HIM (Christ) *were* ALL THINGS MADE.

Job xxxiii. 4. *The* SPIRIT *of God hath* MADE *me*.

XIV.

—— *Quicken the dead.*

John v. 21. *The* FATHER *raiseth up the dead and* QUICKENETH *them*.

Ibid.——*Even so the* SON QUICKENETH *whom he will*.

Ibid. vi. 63. *It is the* SPIRIT *that* QUICKENETH.

XV.

—— *Instruct* us in divine knowledge.

John vi. 45. *They shall be all* TAUGHT *of* GOD.

Gal. i. 12. *Neither was I* TAUGHT *it but by the revelation of* JESUS CHRIST.

John xiv. 26. *The comforter, the holy* SPIRIT, *will* TEACH *you all things.*

XVI.

—— Have *fellowship* with the faithful.

1 John i. 3. *Truly our* FELLOWSHIP *is with the* FATHER.—Gr. Κοινωνια.

Ibid. *And with his Son* JESUS CHRIST.

2 Cor. xiii. 14. *The* FELLOWSHIP (Κοινωνια) *of the* HOLY GHOST *be with you all.*

XVII.

—— Are spiritually *present in* the elect.

1 Cor. xiv. 25.——GOD *is* IN YOU *of a truth.*

2 Cor. xiii. 5. CHRIST *is* IN YOU *except ye be reprobates.*

John xiv. 17. *The* SPIRIT——*dwelleth with you and shall be* IN YOU.

So again,

2 Cor. vi. 16. GOD *hath said, I will* DWELL *in them.*

Ephes. iii. 17. *That* CHRIST *may* DWELL *in your hearts.*

Rom. viii. 11. *His* SPIRIT *that* DWELLETH *in you.*

XVIII.

—— *Reveal* to us the divine will.

Phil. iii. 15. God *shall* REVEAL *even this unto you.*

Gal. i. 12.——*Neither was I taught it but by the* REVELATION *of* JESUS CHRIST.

Luke 2. 26. *It was* REVEALED *unto him by the* HOLY GHOST.

So again,

Heb. i. 1. GOD *who* SPAKE *unto the fathers by the prophets.*

2 Cor. xiii. 3. *Ye seek a proof of* CHRIST SPEAKING *in me.*

Mark xiii. 11. *It is not ye that* SPEAK, *but the* HOLY GHOST.

And as prophecies are revealed *by*, so are they also delivered *in the name*, that is, by the special authority of each person in the godhead. For though the usual introduction to any divine revelation be—*Thus* SAITH *the* LORD—yet we also find the expressions—*These things* SAITH *the* SON *of* GOD, Rev. ii. 18. And—*Thus* SAITH *the* HOLY GHOST, Acts. xiii. 3.—with many other passages to the same effect.

XIX.

—— Raised the body of Christ from the grave.

1 Cor. vi. 14. GOD *hath both* RAISED UP *the* Lord, *and will also raise us up by his* OWN POWER.*

John ii. 19. *Destroy this temple, and in three days I* WILL RAISE IT UP.

1 Pet. iii. 18. *Christ—being put to death in the flesh, but* QUICKENED *by the* SPIRIT.

* See Art. VII. of this Chapter.

XX.

—— Conduct the people of God.

Isai. xlviii. 17. *I am the* LORD *thy* GOD, *which* LEADETH *thee by the way that thou shouldst go.*

John x. 3. *He* (Christ the Shepherd) *calleth his own sheep by name, and* LEADETH *them out.*

Rom. viii. 14. *As many as are* LED *by the* SPIRIT *of God, they are the sons of God.*

XXI.

—— Give a commission and authority to the ministers of the gospel.

2 Cor. iii. 5, 6. *Our sufficiency is of* GOD, *who hath* MADE *us able* MINISTERS.

1 Tim. i. 12. JESUS CHRIST—*counted me faithful,* PUTTING *me into the* MINISTRY.

Acts v. 28. *Take heed therefore—to all the flock over the which the* HOLY GHOST *hath* MADE *you* OVERSEERS.

XXII.

—— *Sanctify* the elect.

Jude 1.—*To them that are* SANCTIFIED *by* GOD, *the* FATHER.

Heb. ii. 11. *He that* SANCTIFIETH *and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause* he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Rom. xv. 16. *Being* SANCTIFIED *by the* HOLY GHOST.

XXIII.

—— Perform all spiritual and divine operations.

1 Cor. xii. 16. *It is the same* GOD *which* WORKETH ALL IN ALL.

Col. iii. 11. CHRIST *is all and* IN ALL.

1 Cor. xii. 11. *But* ALL *these* WORKETH *that one and the self-same* SPIRIT.

CONCLUSION.

LET us now take a review of what has been collected in these papers, and sum up the evidence in its own natural terms.

It has appeared from the *first* chapter, that *Christ Jesus*, whose divinity is daily blasphemed amongst us, because it is not proved in the Scripture, is the *Lord of Hosts*,[a] the *first and the last*,[b] than whom there is *no greater*,[c] and beside whom there is *no God*:[d] that he is the *Saviour of the world*,[e] the *Lord* and *God* of the *holy prophets*[f] and *apostles*,[g] the *most high God*,[h] the *searcher of all hearts*,[i] comprehended and made known to us under the name of *that God* to whom *the world was reconciled*.[k] Who though he was the *Word* of God that *came forth* from the Father into the world; yet he *was God*,[l] and of the same *divine nature*[m] with him that sent him. Though he was perfect *man*, of the *seed* of *Abraham*, born of his mother, and in all things made like to his brethren; yet *the fulness of the godhead dwelt in him bodily*.[n] Though he suffered, died,[o]

a Chap. I. Art. I. II. III.
b III.
c XLV.
d III.
e IV.
f V.
g XI.
h IX.
i XLIII.
k XIV.
l XIX.
m XLIV.
n XVIII.
o XLVII.

was pierced upon the cross, and redeemed us by his *blood*; yet that blood was the blood of *God*,[p] and upon *his* cross *Jehovah* was *pierced*.[q]

That the objections urged against all these positive proofs, proceed wholly upon false principles; being drawn, partly, from *natural religion* and *philosophy*, which never was nor ever will be subject to the *law of God*; and is not intended so to be by those who set it up and dispute for it. Partly from the economical offices and humiliation of *Christ* in the *flesh*;[r] in which it is nevertheless affirmed, that *God* himself was made *manifest*.[s] And lastly, from the *unity*[t] of God so often asserted and insisted upon in the scripture; not in opposition to the godhead of Christ, but to the *idols*[u] then worshipped all over the heathen world. Hence it is, that God is called the *true God*; for they were *false* ones: *one God*; for they were *many*:[v] the *living God*;[w] for they were *vanities* without life. Yet in the place of these *idols*, who are to supply the contrast, they have substituted the person of their blessed Redeemer, the *true God*,[x] the *everlasting Father*,[y] the *Lord of Glory*,[z] who is able to *subdue all things to himself*, and of whose *kingdom* there shall be *no end*.

From the *second* chapter it has appeared, that the *Holy Ghost* is our spiritual *Father*,[a] by whose divine power we are *begotten* to a new life; and to whom we

p XLIX.
q XLIV.
r XXV. XXVI. XXXIX.
s 1 Tim. iii. 16.
t XXIV. XXXIII.
u XXII. 1 John v. 21.
v 1 Cor. viii. 5, 6.
w Acts xiv. 15.
x 1 John v. 20.
y XX.
z 1 Cor. ii. 8.
a Chap. II. Art. I.

daily *pray* that he would not *lead us into temptation*.[b] That he is the *Lord*,[c] even the *Lord of Hosts*,[d] the ruler of the christian economy, *calling* men to that *honor* in his church, which *God only*[e] can bestow upon them. That he is incomprehensibly *united* with *God*, and sensible of the omnipotent *will* in himself; *even as* the human *Spirit* is united to *man*, and understandeth its *own thoughts*.[f] That *his power*, is the immediate power of *God himself*;[g] his *inspiration*, is the inspiration of *God*;[h] his *presence*, the presence of *God*.[i] That he *is God*,[k] even the *highest*; for the *man* Christ Jesus, who is the *Son of God*, and the *Son* of the *highest*, was *so called* BECAUSE he was begotten of the *Holy Ghost*.[l]

That the objections usually brought to disguise and destroy this evidence, are taken from the *unity*, the *attributes* and *will* of God, and the *ministration* of the *Spirit* in the economy of grace; all of them falsely interpreted.[m] For as to the *unity* of God, it is not an unity of *person*. As to the supreme attribute of *goodness*, it is also possessed by the *Spirit*. As to the *will* of God, according to which the gifts and graces of the Spirit are distributed, it is opposed to the will of *man*, not to that of the *Spirit*; which is said to blow *where it listeth*, and to divide or distribute unto every man his gifts, not as *man* the receiver, but as he himself *willeth*.[n]

b XI.
c III.
d XXII.
e II.
f XIII.
g XVII.
h VI.
i IX. V. XX.
k VIII.
l XXI.
m XXIII. XXIV.
n XXV.

It has appeared from the *third* chapter, that God is signified to us throughout the Old Testament by a name that is plural,[o] and proved to be such from many particular instances; yet generally so restrained and qualified, as to destroy the suspicion of a plurality of *gods*. That to this common name of God, many other plural names and expressions are added;[p] and that an interchanging of the *plural* and *singular*[q] is frequently observed, which neither grammar nor reason can account for upon any principle, but that of a real divine plurality. That the *persons* of God are *three* in number, precisely distinguished on some occasions by the personal names of the *Father*, the *Word*, or *Son*, and the *Holy Spirit*,[r] and also by different offices. That the same term is not always peculiar and proper to the same person; because the words *God*, *Lord*, *Jehovah*, and *Father*, are sometimes applied to one person, sometimes to another; while at other times they are not personal, but general names of the *divine nature*. That in the *Lord of hosts*,[s] sitting upon his throne, and speaking of himself in the *plural* to the prophet *Isaiah*, there was not *one* person only, but *three*; the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Ghost*, all expressed under one name in the Old Testament, but personally distinguished to us by three different ones in the New, where this matter is referred to.

In the *fourth* and last chapter, the passages of the scripture have been laid together, and made to unite their beams in one common centre, the *unity* of the

o Chap. III. Art. I.
p V. VI. VII. VIII.
q IX. X.
r XVIII.
s XIX.

trinity. Which unity is not metaphorical and figurative, but strict and real: and there can be no real unity in God, but that of his *nature*, *essence*, or *substance*, all of which are synonymous terms: this unity considered *in itself*, is altogether incomprehensible: but it is one thing to read and to know that there *is* a divine nature, and another thing to *describe* it. That it is proved to be an unity of essence; 1st. Because the three persons are all comprehended under the same individual and supreme appellation. They are the one *Lord* absolutely so called.[t] *The creator of the world*, and the *God of Israel*.[u] 2dly, Because they partake in common of the name *Jehovah*,[w] which, being interpreted, means the *divine essence*: and what it signifies in one person, it must also signify in the others; as truly as the singular name *Adam*, in its appellative capacity, expresses the common nature of all mankind. And this name neither is nor can be communicated, without a contradiction, to any derived or inferior nature, as well on account of its signification as its application, which is expressly restrained to *one only*. 3dly, It is farther proved in that the *authority*,[x] the secret *mind*[y] or council, and the *power*[z] by which all things are established and directed, is ascribed to *Christ* and the *Spirit* in common with God the Father; and that in the same exercise of it, and upon the same occasions. 4thly, Because there is a participation of such divine *attributes*[a] as cannot subsist but where they are original. Our understanding, if it be moderately

t Chap. IV. Art. I. III.
u IV.
w II.
x VI.
y VI.
z VII.
a VIII. IX. X. XI. XII.

instructed, will satisfy us there can be *one only* who is *eternal*, and possessed of *holiness*, *truth*, *life*, *&c.* in and from himself. Yet the whole trinity is *eternal*, *holy*, *true*, *living* and *omnipresent*: therefore these *three* were, and will be *one God* from everlasting to everlasting. 5thly, and lastly, Because there is a concurrence of the whole undivided godhead in all those *acts*,[b] every one of which have in them the character of a divine wisdom and omnipotence; and express such an intimate union and communion of the holy trinity, as the understanding of man cannot reach, and which no words can explain. For though it is and must be *one God* who doth all these things, yet it is the *Father*, the *Son* and the *Holy Spirit*, who *gave us our being*, *instruct* and illuminate us, *lead* us, *speak* to us, and are present with us; who give *authority* to the church, *raise the dead*, *sanctify* the elect, and perform *every* divine and spiritual operation.

This is the God revealed to us in the holy scripture; very different from the *deity* so much talked of in our systematical schemes of *natural* divinity; which with all its wisdom, never yet thought of a *Christ* or an *Holy Ghost*, by whom *nature*, now fallen and blind, is to be reformed, exalted, and saved. The Bible we know to be the infallible word of God; the rule of our faith and obedience. I find this doctrine revealed in it; therefore I firmly believe and submit to it. And as the liturgy of the church of *England* hath affirmed the same in all its offices, and contains

[b] XIII. &c. ad fin.

nothing contradictory thereto; I believe *that* also: and hope the God whom we serve will defend it against all attempts toward reforming *Christianity* out of it: that the church militant here on earth, may continue to agree in this fundamental doctrine with the church triumphant in heaven. For there the angels *rest not day and night*, praising this *thrice holy*,[c] blessed and glorious trinity. They have neither time nor inclination to dispute against that glory, which they cannot stedfastly behold. And had we a little more humility and devotion, we should not abound so much with disputation. If, in such a subject as this, we trust to our own reason, and it should prove at last to have betrayed us into error, irreligion, and blasphemy; what shall we have to say in excuse for ourselves? We shall not dare to plead the dignity and strength of our rational faculties before the tribunal of him who came into the world to bring the wisdom of it to nought. And if the religion of *Jesus Christ* is to be corrected and softened till it becomes agreeable to the natural thoughts and imaginations of the human heart, then in vain was it said—*Blessed is he whosoever shall not be* offended *in me.*

As for him, who is convinced that God is wiser than himself; who *believes* as he ought, and as the catholic church of Christ hath given him an example from the beginning; *his* danger lies on the other side: and while I venture to give him warning of it, *I beseech him to suffer the word of exhortation*, and to take

[c] Chap. III. Art. XIX.

in good part the *faithful wounds of a friend.* Let him take care then, that while he values his orthodoxy, he be not led unawares to *overvalue it*, by drawing false conclusions from it, and conceiting himself to be *already perfect.* If he knows and believes in the true God, he doth well: but let not that which is an honor to him be any encouragement to dishonor God; the knowledge of whom will only serve to increase our condemnation, if we live in any *lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles who knew him not.* And though it be the *faith* of a Christian, and not his *morality*, that distinguishes him from the rest of mankind; yet that faith must appear in the conduct of his life; even as love to a friend is best witnessed by a readiness to do him service. It is true, the service is not the love, nor of equal value with it; yet the love that refuses the service will be accounted as nothing. The *mystery of faith* is an invaluable treasure; but the vessel that contains it must be clean and undefiled; it must be *held in a pure conscience;* as the *manna*, that glorious symbol of the *word of faith* preached to us by the gospel, was confined to the tabernacle, and preserved in a vessel of gold. A mind that is conformed to the world, and given up to its pleasures, though it repeat the creed without questioning a single article of it, will be abhorred in the sight of God, as a vessel unfit for the master's use; and unworthy, because unprepared, to stand in the *most holy place.* It is the great excellence of faith, that it can produce such a transformation in the life and manners, as no other principle has any power to do; and many are possessed of this truth without apply-

ing it to their own advantage. It is to be feared, that a consciousness of this damps their zeal, and creates that poor, pitiful, cowardly indifference, so much in vogue; which if it had not by accident found the name of *charity*, would have been ashamed to shew its face in a Christian country. They are cold and backward to promote any religious conversation; they will not appear to be in earnest about their faith in the eyes of the world, lest they should be forced to abridge somewhat from the gaity of their lives, and to *live* as they *speak*. But let them remember, that *without holiness no man shall see the Lord:* no dross or impurity of this world will be suffered to continue in his sight. And in this, he is no hard master, *reaping* where he hath not *sown*, and requiring the fruit of good works without giving us strength and ability to bring them forth. He has provided for us the precious blood of the Lamb, and offered to us the assistance of his holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to *serve* that living God in whom we *believe*. If we are purged by *him*, we shall be *clean:* if *he* washes us, we shall be *whiter than snow:* and when the kingdom of God shall come, and all his glory shall appear, we shall be prepared to *behold his face in righteousness*.

This, and no other, is my sincerest wish and prayer for every Christian, who shall give himself the trouble to peruse these papers; in which I pretend to no merit but that of a *transcriber;* which I shall always esteem to be honor enough, where the word of God is my original. And if they should be any way instrumental to promote so good an end, he will not have read, nor shall I have written, in vain.

A

LETTER

TO THE

COMMON PEOPLE,

IN ANSWER TO SOME

POPULAR ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE TRINITY,

BEING AN

APPENDIX

TO THE

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

A

LETTER

TO THE

COMMON PEOPLE.

MEN AND BRETHREN,

AS Christians and members of the church of *England*, you have been taught, that the true God, whom you are bound to believe and worship, is a *trinity in unity*. In the *name* of these three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, you have been *baptized:* and in the litany are directed to pray to this *holy, blessed and glorious trinity, three persons and one God*, that he would *have mercy upon us miserable sinners.*

From the first propagation of the gospel, there has been a sort of men in the Christian church, who had too high an opinion of their own knowledge and wisdom to submit quietly to this doctrine. They pretended it was contrary to their reason and common sense, and impossible in the nature of things, that the true God should be made manifest in the flesh for the salvation of the world; and hence they argued, that

the incarnation must either have been a delusion, a fact brought to pass only in shew and appearance; or that the person incarnate must have been some created being, far inferior in power and dignity to the divine nature itself.

About three hundred years after the death of Christ, when Paganism, or the worship of idols, was losing its influence in the Roman empire, this heresy being come to its full growth, did immediately supply the place of it, and prospered to such a degree, that it overspread the greatest part of the east, and ended at last in the imposture of the false prophet *Mahomet*; whose doctrine was readily embraced wherever *Arianism* prevailed, and no where else among Christians; and his disciples do at this day most zealously deny that trinity which you worship.

When the teachers of the church found themselves disturbed, and their people corrupted, more and more by the daily increase of this heresy; upwards of three hundred Christian bishops, many of whom had been tortured and maimed in the heathen persecutions, assembled together at the city of *Nice* in *Bithynia*, and one *Arius*, a principal promoter of this wickedness, was summoned to appear before them: his doctrine and writings were condemned; the faith which these holy men had brought with them to the council was declared, and is now preserved in the *Nicene Creed*; which form we make use of in the church because it comprehends the sense of our faith in a few words. But we do not rest our belief upon the *authority* of any human form, because the doctrine therein expres-

sed is secured by the unquestionable authority of the Old and New Testaments.

The evidence of this faith, as it is found in the scripture, I have endeavoured to extract and methodize in the best manner I could. The work was made public rather with an humble and charitable desire to assist the studies of the younger clergy, than to instruct the common people; and therefore it was first printed at *Oxford*. Nevertheless, I am well persuaded, that so many of the arguments therein contained are level to all capacities, that an unlearned reader may thence be able to satisfy himself, and inform his Christian neighbors. I shall therefore have no occasion in this place to urge any new evidence from the scripture, but only to refer to some of the old; it being the design of this address to obviate a set of *popular* arguments, which have been made use of by some nameless writers to turn your affections from the doctrine of the trinity; most of which might be applied with as much propriety to prejudice you against any other article of faith in the Christian religion.

I. You know, my dear brethren, that *pride* is a very prevailing passion in human nature; and unless we are very much upon our guard, and are fortified with the true principles of Christian humility, we are all of us in danger of being ensnared by it. Men are proud of their clothes, and proud of their riches, and proud of their titles; but, above all, they are proud of their understanding. Some men are endued with a strength of mind which enables them to bear up with cheerfulness under the common trials of sick-

ness, and losses, and disappointments; while, perhaps, the same men cannot endure the thought of being *cheated* and *imposed upon*, because it is a reflection upon their *understanding*. Our adversaries, therefore, hoping to make the stronger impression, apply themselves first of all to your pride, and inform you, that this doctrine of the trinity is *imposed upon your consciences by church authority*.[d] But if the fact be laid before you, it will soon appear that no point of faith is thus imposed upon you by the church of England. The points of faith which you are required to believe are interwoven with all the forms and offices of our public liturgy. They are collected together for the younger sort of people in the church catechism; and for all teachers, whether clergy or laity, they are drawn out more at large in the *articles of religion*, generally printed at the end of the book of common prayer. So that all the articles of faith being imposed in the same manner, it will follow, that they are *all* imposed by *church authority* or none of them. Let us put it to the trial, and begin with the first article of the *creed—I believe in God the father almighty*. How is this article imposed? Does the church determine by her own authority whether there is a God or not? And so for the rest. Does the church determine whether there is a *Christ*, or an *Holy Ghost?* whether there will be a *resurrection of the dead*, and a *life everlasting?* Certainly the church neither does

[d] See the title-page of a pamphlet called "An Appeal to the Common Sense of all Christian People," &c. printed for *Millar*, in the *Strand*.

nor can pretend to determine any of these things for us; because where any thing is determined by authority, such authority must be superior to what it determines: to suppose which, in this case, would be equally false and presumptious. Therefore the truth of the matter is this; that the church does only declare that faith which it has received; and instead of her *imposing*, this faith is *imposed* upon the church by the uncontrollable authority of God in the holy scripture, to which every private Christian is referred for the proper evidence of any particular doctrine, and for that of the trinity among the rest. Those articles which are of a nature inferior to the church itself, are the only subjects of church authority. Thus, as the *body is more* than the *raiment* that is worn upon it; so the life and being of the church is superior to those outward regulations, which serve only to the order, decency and well being of it; and which the church may, for this reason, appoint, alter, and improve by her own authority. But if any man informs you, that points of faith, or moral practice, are *imposed upon your consciences* by the same authority, he has either mistaken the case, or is himself endeavouring to impose upon your understanding.

II. But "the gospel," they say, "was designed for persons of all capacities," and unless *all persons of common sense* are qualified to understand what the Lord requires of them, we must "charge almighty God with dealing unfairly with his creatures."[e] Now

e Ibid. p. 2.

If the gospel be so easy that nothing but bare common sense is wanted for the understanding of it, why do these authors write so many books to help you to understand it in the *Arian* sense? If you are able, as they flatter you, to instruct yourselves out of the gospel, then their practice is a contradiction to their principle, and their labor is superfluous by their own confession. My brethren, we do not argue in this manner; we know that you have sense and ability to understand the merits of a cause, and are ready to hear reason, when it is plainly represented to you: but if you were able to make all things intelligible to your ownselves, we should neither preach to you nor write books for you.

When God appointed *teachers* in his church (1 Cor. xii. 28.) he certainly did not suppose that the congregation would be equally capable of teaching themselves. If this were true, then indeed God would seem to have dealt unfairly with Christian people, by appointing a ministry of learned men, and providing for their instruction, as if bare common sense, with the Bible in its hand, were not so sufficient as our adversaries would have you believe; in opposition to *us*, but not to themselves.

The duty of a Christian minister is to *teach;* his studies are intended to qualify him, and his time is set apart for that purpose. For the bulk of people, God hath appointed labor and business of another kind, as necessary to support themselves and their families; and *their* duty is to *hear.* But if God has required you to do our work and your own too, then

your lot is hard indeed. You will not, therefore, think it any reflection upon your common sense, that God has appointed an order of teachers in his church, who will never desire you to believe what they are not at all times ready to prove; but will rather beseech him that these teachers may be endued with faith and affection to fulfil the *labor of love* to which they are called, and courage to declare that truth which they have learned from the holy scriptures; and by thus praying for the clergy, you will convince them, that God hath added *grace* to your *common sense*, and that you practise that Christian charity which is more acceptable in his sight than the attainments of learning and knowledge; for these are no more than temporary qualifications, and are to be used only as means; but charity is the end and perfection of all.

III. They tell you, moreover, that people of all sorts have a *right to judge for themselves in matters of religion.*[f] As this principle very nearly affects the peace of the Christian world, and the salvation of individuals, I would advise you to inquire strictly into the meaning of these terms; and to consider how far they may be justified, and how far they are to be condemned. *Right* is a pleasing thing, and *liberty* is an old temptation; but if any Christian doth so assert his right against an human law, as to depart from his obedience and subjection to the divine law, such a right will do him no good when he has got it,

[f] Ibid. p. 133.

because it will not protect him under his religious mistakes against the superior judgment of God; so far from it, that it is probably one of the chief mistakes he will have to answer for.

When they assert that you are to *judge* for yourselves, they must mean, either that you judge of truth by its proper evidence; or that by a certain prerogative of conscience, you are to *guess* for yourselves what is right or wrong, without any evidence at all. If only the former of these senses is intended, they say no more than we all say, and what the church hath said ever since the reformation. If the latter is also allowed, and unlearned people have a right to follow their conscience (that is, their *inclination*) without any evidence, or with some false and partial representation of it; then it will follow, that the difference between good and evil is not real, but imaginary; that truth and falsehood, like temporary fashions, are not the objects of reason but of fancy; which doctrines, if admitted in their full latitude, would turn all reason and religion upside down: and I think they have done it in part already.

When they come to apply this principle, they take occasion to add, that *if you are convinced* of such doctrines as they teach you, *viz.* that God almighty *is only one and the same person;* that the Holy Ghost is *first minister* in the *government of the church;* that he has *angels to assist him;* that Christ is to be honored with *mediatorial worship, &c.* "then you have a *right* to *protest* against the *Athanasian creed.*" But

I say, neither you nor I can possibly have any such right as this, unless we are convinced by *sufficient reasons*. Our persuasion can never be turned into an argument; unless it be also maintained, that a man who is persuaded can never be mistaken. The *Mahometans* are convinced, that their *Alcoran* is a divine revelation; that all Christians are guilty of blasphemy in believing, and idolatry in worshipping, a trinity in unity: and that they have a right to protest against the foundations of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But as they are convinced of these things for very *bad reasons*, we pity the blindness of their understanding, and only laugh at the right they have assumed, as one of those many groundless castles, which human vanity and bigotry have builded in the air.

But allowing that *Arians* thus convinced have a right of protesting, what are orthodox *Christians* to do on the other hand? Have *they* no right? Does a persuasion confer a right on one side, and none on the other? That would be very unreasonable. Therefore we, who are convinced that the creed of *Athanasius* is more agreeable to the scripture than the doctrines of *Arianism*, have a right to remonstrate against the repealing of it; though we can never expect to do so, without being persecuted and reviled for it as long as we live.

IV. To prejudice your minds against the *Athanasian creed*, they inform you, that the doctrine of the trinity, as there set forth, is *not expressed in the words of scripture; there are no such propositions to be found*;

in the declarations of Christ and his apostles,[h] By this it is meant, that you do not find any such expressions as—*trinity in unity—not three eternals, but one eternal*—and such like. The best course you can take upon this occasion, is to argue with them upon their own principles, which generally stop a man's mouth sooner than any other. Ask them, where they find it asserted in the words of scripture, *almighty God is one supreme intelligent being, or person?* Ask them in what chapter or verse, Christ or his apostles did ever declare, that *the Holy Spirit* is *first minister in the government* of the church; and where it is said that he has *Angels for his assistants?* Ask them, again, where they meet with the proposition *—the worship of Christ is inferior, or mediatorial?* And you might ask them twenty more such questions, which they can never answer upon their own principles: so that they have employed an argument to corrupt you, which returns upon themselves, and with this disadvantage on their side, that they have departed from the *sense* as well as the *words* of scripture; but the church, if, besides the words of scripture, it uses others, does still retain such a sense, as the words of scripture will clearly justify.

V. But lest you should believe this, they assure you the *Athanasian* creed has proposed a downright contradiction as an article of faith; and if this be the case, then indeed we must allow that such a contradiction cannot be justified by the words of scripture. "You must believe (say they) if this creed has any

[h] P. 5.

weight, that three Gods is one God."[i] If you examine the creed itself, you will find no such doctrine as they have put in it; but, on the contrary, that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, are NOT THREE GODS, but ONE GOD; and again, "We are *forbidden* by the Catholic religion, to "say, there be three Gods." I pray you to observe this; and to consider with yourselves, whether our adversaries, supposing them to be satisfied in their own consciences that they were able to confute the Catholic doctrine of *three persons, and one God*, would have endeavoured to take advantage of your simplicity, by putting this false notion of *three Gods* into the place of it?

VI. Upon other occasions they try to give you an ill opinion of our ecclesiastical forms, by calling them the *decrees of fallible men*,[k] and *creeds of human invention*;[l] which is a very mean objection, unless they who make it, and propose a contrary sort of belief, are themselves *infallible*. We readily own that the persons, who drew up the forms used in the church, were men like ourselves. But did they deliver the doctrine of these forms as their *own* doctrine, or as the doctrine of almighty God in the scripture? If they delivered it as their own, then their fallibility would be a pertinent consideration: but if it is the doctrine of the scripture, then the fallibility of the men who delivered it, is nothing to the purpose; and as such only we take it, using our own private judgment in re-

i P. 87. k P. 5. l P. 37.

lation to the *men*, but submitting our reason to the infallible *Spirit of God*. A judge who sits upon the bench by the king's authority, to determine civil causes, is a fallible man: but so far as he makes the law of the land the rule of his judgment, he is infallible. And we never attempt to persuade you, that the teachers of our church are infallible, but so far only as they make the scripture the rule of their judgment. Therefore, when you hear them reflected upon as fallible men, do them so much justice as to ask yourselves the question, whether they who make this objection are themselves infallible? Is not the author of an *Appeal to the Common Sense of all Christian People* a fallible man, when he tells you, in terms of human invention, that God is one *supreme intelligent agent, or person?* that the holy Spirit is his *first minister?* that Christ did *really suffer in his highest capacity?*[m] that he is to be honored with *mediatorial worship?* Doth he not deliver these doctrines as a fallible man? Yea verily, not only as one who *may be*, but who actually *is*, deceived, if the scripture is true.

VII. As a farther encouragement to opposition, you are taught that any body may deny the trinity upon *protestant principles*. And here give me leave to tell you, my friends, that there are some people who seem to think it is the profession of a *protestant*, not to *believe* but to *deny*; and that a man is no good protestant, unless he disputes every thing that falls in his way. Had this been the true Christian spirit,

[m] P. 57.

our Saviour would probably have recommended it to his hearers, by setting a bear, or a tyger, or a fox, before them, and proposing these creatures as the best examples of it. Instead of which, he shewed them what his followers ought to be, by presenting to them a little child as their pattern; whence the people were to understand, that as a little child receives the instruction of its parents, without any of the perverse disputings of a corrupted mind; so ought they to receive the kingdom of heaven, that is, the doctrine of the gospel. This is a disposition lovely in the sight of God and men, and so far from rendering the possessors of it more liable to be imposed upon, that none but persons of this temper are able to discern the truth when it is offered, according to that expression of Christ—*I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.* There would be more peace in the world than there is now, if men would but remember this; and there would be more wisdom too: for none are so blind as they who are always boasting of the quickness of their own eye-sight; they are so filled up with the opinion of their understanding every thing, that it is impossible to make them understand when they are mistaken.

But it may be dangerous to enlarge any farther upon this subject, lest it should be suspected that I am leading you into Popery.

There is, however, a very false light, in which your liberty, as Protestants, is represented to you, and

therefore I think it my duty to make you aware of it. "*No Protestant* (they say) can, consistently with acknowledging the scripture as the only rule, charge you with the least presumption, for bringing *decrees not found there* to the test of a rational inquiry."[n] The decree here alluded to is the doctrine of a *trinity in unity*. As to myself, my whole book bears witness for me, that I thought it my own duty, and would have it also be your practice, to bring this doctrine to the test of scripture, as the only sufficient rule in such a case. And I am persuaded, no reasonable Christian will have any objection to your proceedings, if you examine in the best manner you are able, *whether the Catholic doctrine of the trinity is found in the scripture, or not.* But we shall charge *you* justly with a great deal of presumption, if you undertake to compare it with scripture as a decree *not found* in scripture: for this is to beg the question; that is to take it for granted that a decree is *false*, and then compare it with the scripture to see whether it be *true*. If this is your method, you *must* unavoidably conclude as your advisers have done before you. To prevent which, I recommend those words of the wise man—*He that answereth a matter, before he heareth it, it is folly, and shame unto him.*[o] A Protestant who enters upon a mock inquiry with these prejudices and anticipations, is guilty of great injustice towards his Christian brethren, and is all the while putting a trick upon himself.

n P. 6. o Prov. xiv. 13.

If you consult the discourse to the reader, prefixed to the *Catholic doctrine*, you will see, toward the latter end of it, upon what grounds I have charged the learned Dr. *Clarke*, and his followers, with this unfair practice of *bringing* to the scripture that knowledge which they ought to *receive* from it. Perhaps you never heard any history of that author, therefore I will tell you thus much of him: that he was a man greatly to be respected for his temper and scholarship; but it happened, unfortunately for his character as a Christian, that he wrote a celebrated book upon the *being and attributes* (or perfections) *of God;* and having discovered, as he thought, by the force of his own wit, what God was and must be in all respects, he rejected the Christian doctrine of the trinity; and to put the best face he could upon his unbelief, spent much of the remainder of his life in writing ambiguous comments, and finding various readings, that is, in *picking holes* in the Bible.

The author of an *Appeal to the Common Sense of all Christian people*, calls him, *the immortal* Dr. *Clarke* [p] and has borrowed from him the substance of that whole book, which was the worst thing he ever wrote in his life. The glittering characters of *great, learned*, and *immortal*, are frequently thrown out with an intention to dazzle the eyes of common readers; and chiefly by those writers who are most forward to accuse us of an implicit obedience to *human authority*, and *the decrees of fallible and interested men*. But if you leave the faith and hope of a Christian, your loss will be

[p] *Preface.*

equally great, whether you are tempted to it by the Pope of Rome, or by the *immortal* Dr. *Samuel Clarke*.

VIII. Now we are upon the subject of human characters, I will propose to you, on the other hand, those learned and godly martyrs, who were concerned in reforming the church of England from the errors of Popery. If the doctrine of the trinity is so contrary to the scripture, as our adversaries would have you believe, how did it happen that these men, who were certainly endued with all the advantages and ornaments of human learning, and had the Bible so often in their hands, that they translated every word of it into the English tongue, suffered this doctrine of the trinity to stand unreformed? I will shew you how the *Arians* endeavoured to solve this difficulty, which is indeed a very great one. They say "it may fairly be presumed, that as they were just come out of the gross corruptions of Popery, they did not see the whole truth as it is in Jesus."[q] So that notwithstanding their resolution to reform, yet Popery hung about them still, and they did not reform *so much* as they ought to have done. But if you are to be guided by presumptions, you will soon discover, that the fairer presumption is on the other side, when the nature of men and things upon such occasions is rightly considered. When tares growing amongst wheat are to be plucked up, there is not nearly so much danger that any tares should be left behind, as that some of the wheat should be plucked up along with them. If you have a crooked stick in your hand, and would make it straight, the first step you take is to bend it

q Ibid. p. 4.

too much the contrary way; after which it may come to be right at last. Just so it happens, that if mankind are offended with any thing, and sensible of a past error, they are apt to fly from it with such an undistinguishing aversion, as to fall, before they are aware, into the contrary extreme: and their prejudice if they have any, is not *for* but *against*, what they are correcting. Instead of doing too little, they are in danger of being in such a heat as to *overdo* every thing they set about: whence it is most naturally to be inferred, that our divines, who reformed the errors of Popery, were not then inclined to act in favor of Popery. A spirit of reformation is an excellent thing; and I wish to God it abounded amongst us more than it does, provided it would exert its force against those real corruptions, which are but too visible to all serious members of the church of England; but unless it is tempered with great wisdom and caution, it degenerates naturally into a spirit of contradiction. Which things being considered, I would advise you not to be influenced by any presumptive reflections upon the judgment of our first reformers, till the *Arians* are able to prove, by some *direct evidence*, that the doctrine of the trinity, as now expressed in our creeds and offices, is an unreformed article of *Popery*.

IX. Our adversaries lay so great a stress upon this charge of Popery, and find it so convenient at every turn, that they are determined to make Papists of us at any rate: therefore they assure you, in words not fit for a Chistian to repeat, that "the church of *Rome* had as good a right to impose the worship of

angels, and the *virgin Mary*, upon the consciences of men, as the church of *England* had to impose the worship of the holy Spirit as God, and of three persons as one God."[r] The Papists, without question, will thank them for putting the worship of the *virgin Mary* upon a level with that of the *holy Spirit*. But this respect being paid to the Papists at our expense, it is proper you should be made acquainted with the merits of this affair.

The Papists do not pretend to justify their worship of the blessed virgin by any precept or example of the scripture; but tell you in some fabulous legends, what heavenly favors have been granted to her worshippers; that ignorant people may be encouraged to the like idolatry. But where will the *Arians* find any such stories imposed by the church of England, to justify the worship of the Holy Ghost?

If you ask the Papists how they can prove that we ought to worship the blessed virgin, the best argument they can allege, is the practice and infallibility of their own *Roman catholic* church: but do we ever attempt to quiet your scruples with any pretensions, to unscriptural authority, or personal infallibility?

Let us pass at length to the scripture itself, which will shew you how dangerous it is for unlearned and well-meaning people to trust themselves in the hands of an *Arian* reasoner.

Doth the scripture in any chapter or verse of it, call the bodies of Christian people the *temple of the virgin Mary?* But the apostle St. Paul saith—*Know*

[r] P. 123.

ye not that your body is *the* temple *of the* Holy Ghost?[s] And what is the use of a temple? Is it not an house of prayer, praise, and sacrifice? He that has a temple must be entitled to divine honors in it; or we shall be guilty of *idolatry* when we worship him in his *own temple;* which is absurd. The apostle himself makes this practical inference in the words which immediately follow—*Therefore glorify God in your body.* And if the word *God* in this place denotes an object of worship exclusive of the Holy Spirit, (as our adversaries are obliged to suppose, or give up the point) then it will follow, that the *temple* belongs to one being, and the glory and worship to another; which is one of those many strange things you are bound to believe, before you can be of the *Arian* opinion.[t]

Can you find it any where written in the scripture, that the angels of heaven worshipped the *virgin Mary?* Read the sixth chapter of the prophet *Isaiah*, in which the *seraphim* ascribe *glory* to that *Lord of hosts* who spake the following words to the prophet —*Go, and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not, &c.* Now St. *Paul* teaches us, in the last chapter of the *Acts*, that these words were spoken by the *Holy Ghost.* So that when we say, "glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the HOLY GHOST," we have the example of the seraphim in heaven for this way of worship; a consideration which will

s See *Cath. Doct.* Chap. ii. Art. 10. t You may see the author of the *Appeal* driven to this absurdity, and endeavoring seriously to uphold it, if you consult his book, p. 61, 62.

make us easy under all the opposition it meets with here below in the world.[u]

When you have reflected upon these things, then you may ask yourselves the question, whether Christians who are *born of God* are any where said to be born of the virgin Mary? Whether the apostles, who were *called of God* to the ministry of the gospel, were called of the virgin Mary? Whether the virgin Mary can be *tempted* and *blasphemed* by sinners? Whether she conferred divine *inspiration* upon the prophets of the Old, or the apostles of the New Testament? Whether we are baptized in the NAME, that is into the *religion* and *worship* of the virgin Mary? But all these things and many more, are true of the *Holy Spirit;* who dwelling in our body as in his own temple, is therein to be served and glorified; and being also worshipped and glorified, together with the Father and the Son, by the angels of heaven, I think we have a better right to worship him here upon earth, than the Papists have to worship the virgin Mary.

Our adversaries would persuade you we have so little to say upon this subject from the scripture, that it is a great favour in them not to *triumph* over us, and *insult* us for it.[w] As if it were no insult upon the church of England to suppose her worship as groundless as the idolatry of the Papists!

The argument drawn from the words of *Isaiah* with those of St. *Paul* is very plain, and very close: "The Lord of hosts, whom the seraphim glorified,

u See *Cath. Doct.* Chap. III. Art. XIX. w See *Appeal*, p. 104. note.

spake those words which were spoken by the Holy Ghost: therefore the Holy Ghost is the Lord of hosts whom the seraphim glorified." Yet the author of the *Appeal* declares, that *nothing can be more fallacious than this way of reasoning*, and that he *could in the same manner conclude that Isaiah is the Lord*, because the words of the Lord *(I was found of them that sought me not)* are applied to *Isaiah*, Rom. x. 20. Where the apostle thus introduces them—*But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not.*[x] This author, I believe, is the first Christian who did ever suppose, that the apostle *applied* the words in this verse *to* the person of *Esaias;* or those in the preceding to the person of *Moses*. This, however, is not worth insisting upon, because he has mistaken the nature of the argument. The force of it lies here; that the *speaker* of the words above mentioned, as they stand in the prophet *Isaiah*, is called by the name of *the Lord of hosts*, was *glorified* by angels, seated upon the throne of heaven, and sent a prophet by his own authority; and this speaker, as St. *Paul* informs us, was the Holy Ghost. If the scripture doth any where assert that *Isaiah* spake under the same name, and with the same circumstances, then we shall be ready to allow that the cases are parallel, and will worship *him* also. Had the objector expressed himself clearly, his meaning would have appeared to be this: that because God speaks by a prophet, and speaks also by his Holy Spirit, as much may be inferred in honor of the one as of the other.

x P. 63.

But when God speaks by a prophet, he speaks by *another*; when he speaks by his Spirit, he speaks *by himself*. He reconciled the world *by* Jesus Christ, but not as by another; for *God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself*. So when he speaks by his Spirit, he speaks by himself; as truly as a man utters his voice by the *spirit* or breath of his *own* mouth; or searcheth his own thoughts by the operation of his own mind. I am not afraid to insist upon this comparison, because I borrow it from St. Paul; and it demonstrates such an unity between God and the Spirit of God, as Christians believe, and *Arians* do not: nor do they attempt to get over it by any solution I have yet seen, which will not also prove that a man and his spirit are two different beings; or that we may correct an apostle's argument till it squares with our own opinion. In this manner reasons the author of the Appeal. *The Spirit is represented as a person who searcheth the deep things of God, and consequently he cannot be God.*[y] But if he cannot be God, because he searcheth the things of God; then the spirit of a man cannot be man, because it knoweth the things of a man. But observe how he proceeds: "No man, says he, can know or make known to others the thoughts of a man, but *either* the man himself, *or he to whomsoever the man will discover them.*" In which words the premises are manifestly changed. The apostle saith, *what man knoweth the things of a man but the spirit of man which is in him;* that is, the man himself: but the

[y] P. 66.

author of the Appeal says, *either the man himself, or some other.* The scripture itself gives us the catholic conclusion; this alteration of the scripture will admit of the *Arian* conclusion. From St. Paul's comparison, the Spirit is God himself; from this author's, he is *either* God himself, or some other.

X. In a book lately published against the *articles of religion*, under the title of *The Confessional*, I have met with a new objection to our way of worship; which, as it can deceive none but common readers, I shall present you with in this place. "The Athanasian creed says," as the author of this work observes, "that in ALL THINGS the unity in trinity and the trinity in unity is to be worshipped."[z] Then he asks, "Is this the case in ALL our forms of worship? Turn back to the litany" (that is, *turn forward*, the litany stands *after* the *Athanasian* creed) "and you will see three distinct invocations of the three persons, to each of whom the term *God* is assigned, implying a sufficiency in each, in his *personal* capacity, to hear and grant the petition." This he assures you, is a *remarkable* and *notorious deviation* from the *Athanasian* maxim; and that others might be given *in great abundance.*

By an *Athanasian*, he means a *Christian* maxim; but calls it *Athanasian*, that your faith may seem to *stand in the wisdom of men:* and our deviation from this maxim is evident to him, from the three distinct invocations in the beginning of the litany. But if you look into the litany itself, you will discover, that these

[z] *Confessional*, p. 319.

three invocations are followed by a fourth, addressed to the "holy, blessed, and glorious trinity, three persons and ONE GOD." In the three former petitions, the unity *in trinity*; in the fourth, the trinity *in unity* is worshipped. But of this fourth he takes no notice; and then accuses the church of a *remarkable* and *notorious* deviation from her own maxims; whereas he ought to have taken the *whole* address together, and then have urged his exceptions, if any such could have been reasonably made against it. To take one portion of any form, abstracted from another which completes it, and then charge his brethren with defects and contradictions of his own making, is agreeable neither to sound criticism, nor indeed to common equity. Such a practice as this will convict even the scripture itself of atheism: for if you leave out the words—*The fool hath said in his heart*, there will remain the naked assertion—*There is no God.* Or it might be proved from the gospel, as I once heard it attempted by an excommunicated infidel, that the Old Testament is now to be utterly condemned and laid aside, because it is said—*Hang all the law and the prophets.* But if the sentence be taken in the form in which the scripture hath given it, the sense is entirely altered; and so it happens with the objection lately discovered by the author of the *Confessional.* His brethren, as you have seen, accuse us of believing in *three Gods;* and he mocks at our worship, as if it could be reconciled with no other principle.

XI. But it is said farther, that the doctrine of the trinity is an *offensive doctrine*,[a] which has *done infinite mischief* to the cause of Christ's religion, and that it is *in vain to expect the conversion of Jews, Mahometans, and Heathens*,[b] so long as we hold this doctrine necessary to salvation.

On such occasions as this, the gospel, I fear, will countenance but a very small degree of compliance. In matters indifferent, and for the sake of those who have not yet broken the bond of peace and Christian unity, every concession ought to be made that can be made with innocence. But if we once quit our moorings, to launch out into the boundless ocean of wordly policy, miscalled moderation, in search of proselytes, whose pride, pleasure, and merit it is, not to be found and converted, we shall be rewarded with shame and disappointment, and shall also make shipwreck of our own faith.

The *Socinians* objected it to us long ago, that the doctrines of the trinity and incarnation prevent the conversion of *Mahometans*, *Jews*, and *Pagans*. And the same doctrines hinder our *Arians* and *Socinians* too from being converted: the true character of the Christian Saviour, and the true object of Christian worship, being so essential to the gospel, that no man is to be accounted a convert, till he agrees with Christians in these articles. Were we to alter the Christian faith into what Jews, Turks, and Pagans believe, then we should gain them all; for then we should

a P. 66. of the *Appeal*. b 133, Ibid.

be agreed; that is, we should cease to be Christians as well as they.

If this reasoning is of any force in one case, it must be admitted in others. The trinity, they say, is so offensive to the Turks, that we shall never gain them till it is given up. No: nor then neither. For *Mahomet* gave them a liberty of having several wives; but *Christ* hath taught us, that *God in the beginning made them male and female*, and that a Christian must have no more wives than *Adam* had. Of this doctrine I may therefore say, with as much reason as the *Arians* do of the trinity, that it has *done infinite mischief*, and that we can *never expect the conversion of Mahometans*, so long as it keeps its place in the gospel of Christ. If an *Arian* or *Socinian* were to preach in the streets of *Constantinople*, insisting properly upon this doctrine, he would make no converts: for the Turk will as soon be persuaded to worship the trinity in unity, or even three different Gods, as submit to have no more than one wife. And this may serve to shew the weakness and absurdity of such popular arguments; to which, I apprehend, our disputants against the church would not apply themselves so very often, could they depend safely upon better topics. If the present faith and worship of the church are against the scripture, that is enough; and we shall want no other arguments to persuade us out of them. But if they are not, I leave you to judge, my friends, whether we ought to forsake them out of

civility to the *Turks*, who pray five times a day that they may never become Christians.

But there are *Papists* in the world who have souls to be saved as well as the Turks; and what would they think of us, if we should gratify Jews, Heathens, and Mahometans, by denying the trinity? They have always been sound in the belief of this doctrine; and we could never hope to recover any proselytes from the errors of Popery; but, on the contrary, should make the religion of Protestants more odious than ever, if, under the name of reformation, we were to root up the foundations of the gospel. You have heard, perhaps, that they have called us *heretics* for these two hundred years past; and very falsely: but if we should abjure the Christian trinity, we should no longer have the name for nothing; but should be guilty of adding that truth to the accusation, of which they would not fail to make their advantage. And lastly, the far greater part of the Protestants would reject us.

These things being considered, we are brought at length to the following issue: that to please some, we must part with the doctrine of the trinity; and to please others, we must keep it. Which may shew plainly enough what I have had in view from the beginning of this epistle, that merely popular arguments are of no use towards settling points of scriptural doctrine; but may be turned this way or that as the manager finds it most convenient. Discretion and charity are indeed to be consulted by every Christian, and on every subject; but a writer who has a good cause to maintain, and knows where its proper strength lies

will not go out of his way to amuse people with what is nothing to the purpose. Whereas, if a cause is not so strong as it should be, popular considerations serve to put the reader into an heat; and when a man's passions are up, he will hear no reason on one side, and requires none on the other.

XII. There is one more of their insinuations, which is the last I shall make any remarks upon at present; and it is this, *viz.* that "there are several clergymen of the church of *England*, who groan under the weight of the *Athanasian* forms and worship, that would be very glad of your assistance to be delivered from so great a burden upon their consciences."[c] For the credit of the church of England, I hope there are not many such: but if any clergymen should be so mistaken as to imagine, that a contempt for any of the Christian doctrines is an argument of their superior sense and learning, they are more truly the objects of pity, than of envy or imitation: and your Arian counsellors, who are so forward to caution you against *human authority*, will give me leave to advise you not to depend upon *human example*. An error is still an error though it resides in a clergyman; and instead of being thereby sanctified, is only more deformed and dangerous than it was before. A profane oath, or a curse, would sound the more horrible, if a bishop were to have the uttering of it. A toad is an hideous creature in every situation; but is never so much abhorred as when it creeps into the best room of the house. The ministers of Christ are the *salt of the*

c *Appeal*, p. 120.

earth: and if this salt *have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned?*

The scripture will teach you, that the worship of the golden calf was a grievous sin, though *Aaron*, who was a clergyman, had the making of it. And there was a time, when the whole body of the clergy, I mean the Jewish, determined Christ himself to be a blasphemer and deceiver, and were instant with loud voices requiring that he might be crucified.

Those clergymen, who, like Dr. *Clarke* and his follower, the author of the *Appeal*, do by their own confession believe *two diffrent Gods*, while they falsely accuse us of believing *three*, would undoubtedly be very glad to be well rid of a trinity in unity; as the Turks were, when they took the religion of *Mahomet* into the place of it. And if they should at length prevail, by dint of popular clamor and importunity, of which some wonderful effects have been seen in this kingdom, the Turks, and the Jews too, would congratulate them upon their victory; and so would every determined Deist and Atheist in the nation. Yet, after all, none of them would worship that imagined inferior deity, whom this author would persuade you to worship.

I believe it also to be very true, that they would, as their advocate tells you, be *very glad of your assistance.* And I have been considering with myself in what form and manner your assistance can be administered. They can hardly mean, that you should assist them with the pen, and write books upon *reformation;* for very few amongst you are scholars: nor

with the tongue, for you are no orators. And I know not how you can assist them otherwise, except it be with fire and sword, as the reforming clergy were assisted in the last century, when loyalty was malignity, and episcopacy was antichristianity, and the most miserable oppression and slavery of two thirds of the people, was celebrated as a state of Christian liberty to the prevailing party.

We know, but too well, that the gospel, with all its doctrines, is an insupportable *burden* to those who do not believe it; and so is the law of the land to those who do not like to be under the restraint of it. Some men are fond of liberty in one shape, and some in another. Some think as they please; and others act as they please. This latter sort of people, *many* of whom are *groaning under the weight* of political *forms*, would also be very glad of your assistance toward amending the constitution, and restoring gentlemen to that state of freedom, in which they might follow their consciences without any danger. And, perhaps, they would not object to your assistance as unwarrantable in the sacred cause of liberty, though you should accomplish their purposes by pulling the magistrate from his chair, the judge from his bench, the two houses of parliament from their seats, and the king from his throne.

These are the prospects I have before my eyes, when I hear Deists and Socinians haranguing the public upon the subjects of conscience and imposition: which prospects having been once realized in this church and kingdom, cannot be deemed altoge-

ther chimerical. Such popular reasonings as I have now been contending with, have already produced the most fatal consequences, to the triumph of the Papists, and the scandal of the reformation: they have deceived you once: and unless you are upon your guard, they will deceive you again: *and the last error shall be worse than the first;* worse in itself, and worse in its consequences. It pleased God to deliver the church from its captivity under the Puritans and the people from their infatuation: but if experiments, when they have been tried, leave us no wiser, or, perhaps, not so wise as they found us, it is much to be questioned whether we shall again meet with the like indulgence: at least, it will be safest always to bear in mind that course of divine providence in a similar instance, proposed as a warning to all Christians by the apostle St. *Jude, how that the Lord having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed them that believed not.*

Those authors who would stir you up to seditious motions, make you so many fair speeches, and lay claim to so much candor and charity, that you may easily mistake them for your best friends. But I must now leave you to judge for yourselves, whether a writer, who lies sculking in the dark, under a nameless title-page, can really love you better than one, who is not afraid to subscribe his name at length to what he has written, and is exposing himself for your sakes to be reviled and persecuted in the monthly publications of infidel critics, who on account of the information I have here given you, with a desire to

clear away some of that dust, which they and their friends are perpetually throwing into your eyes, will find, if possible, some worse names for me than they have ever done yet. They have expressed their wrath against me more than once or twice; and probably they will now do it again. But a little more ill language will do me no harm; and if I can do you any good at such an expence, it will all be cheerfully taken by your

Very sincere friend,

And most affectionate

Brother in Christ,

WILLIAM JONES.

PLUCKLEY, *Dec.* 16, 1766.

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